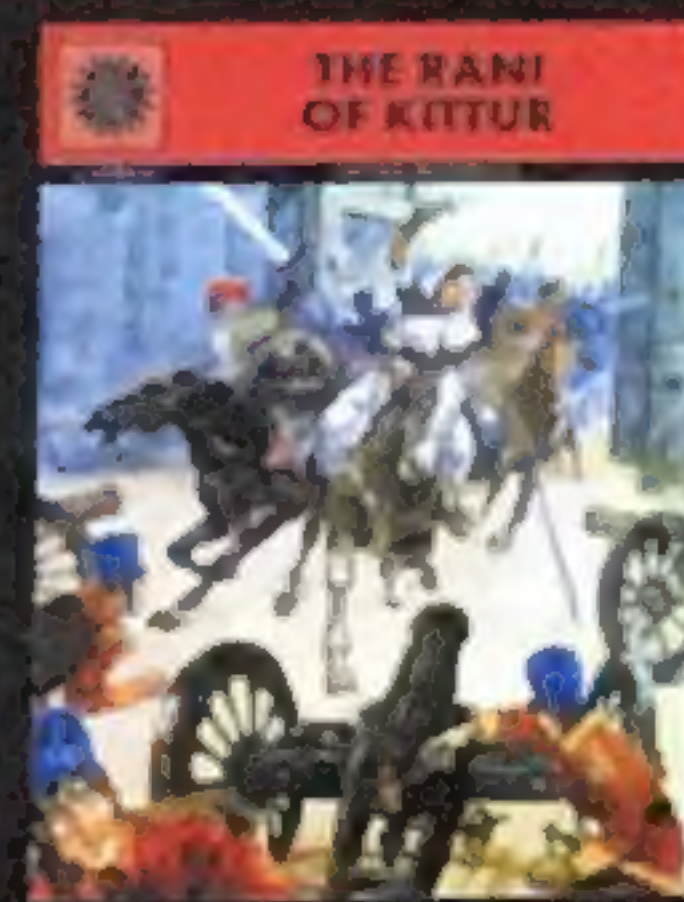


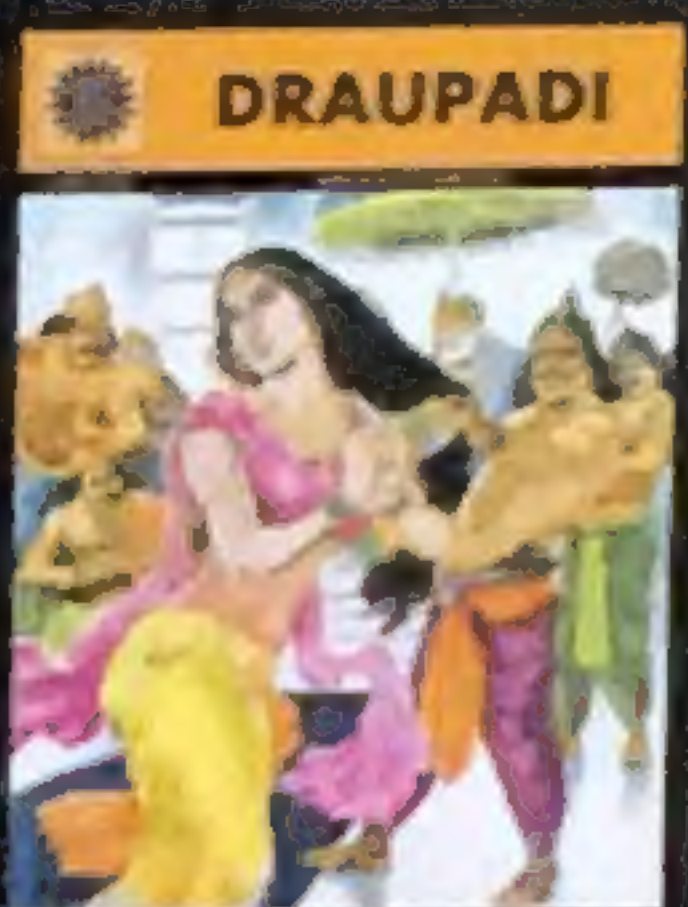
RANI ABBAKKA

Abbakka, queen of Ullal, a small principality (in what is now South Karnataka), had made a pledge to her dying mother that she would avenge her defeat and humiliation at the hands of the Portuguese. Defying her over-cautious husband, the king of Bangadi, and the under-confident nobles in her court, Rani Abbakka rallied her army to challenge the might of the Portuguese and wrest freedom for Ullal and later even for Mangalore.

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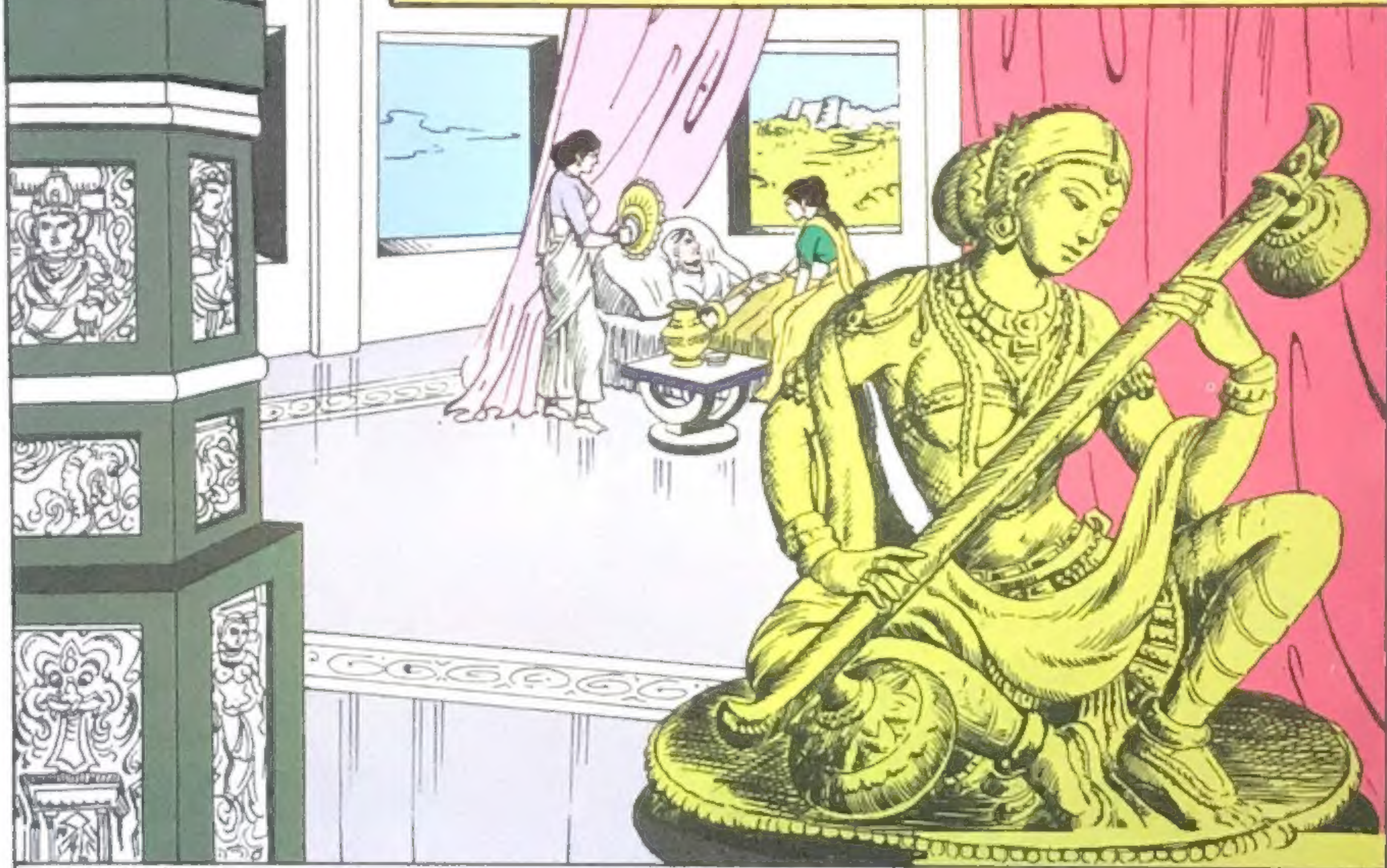


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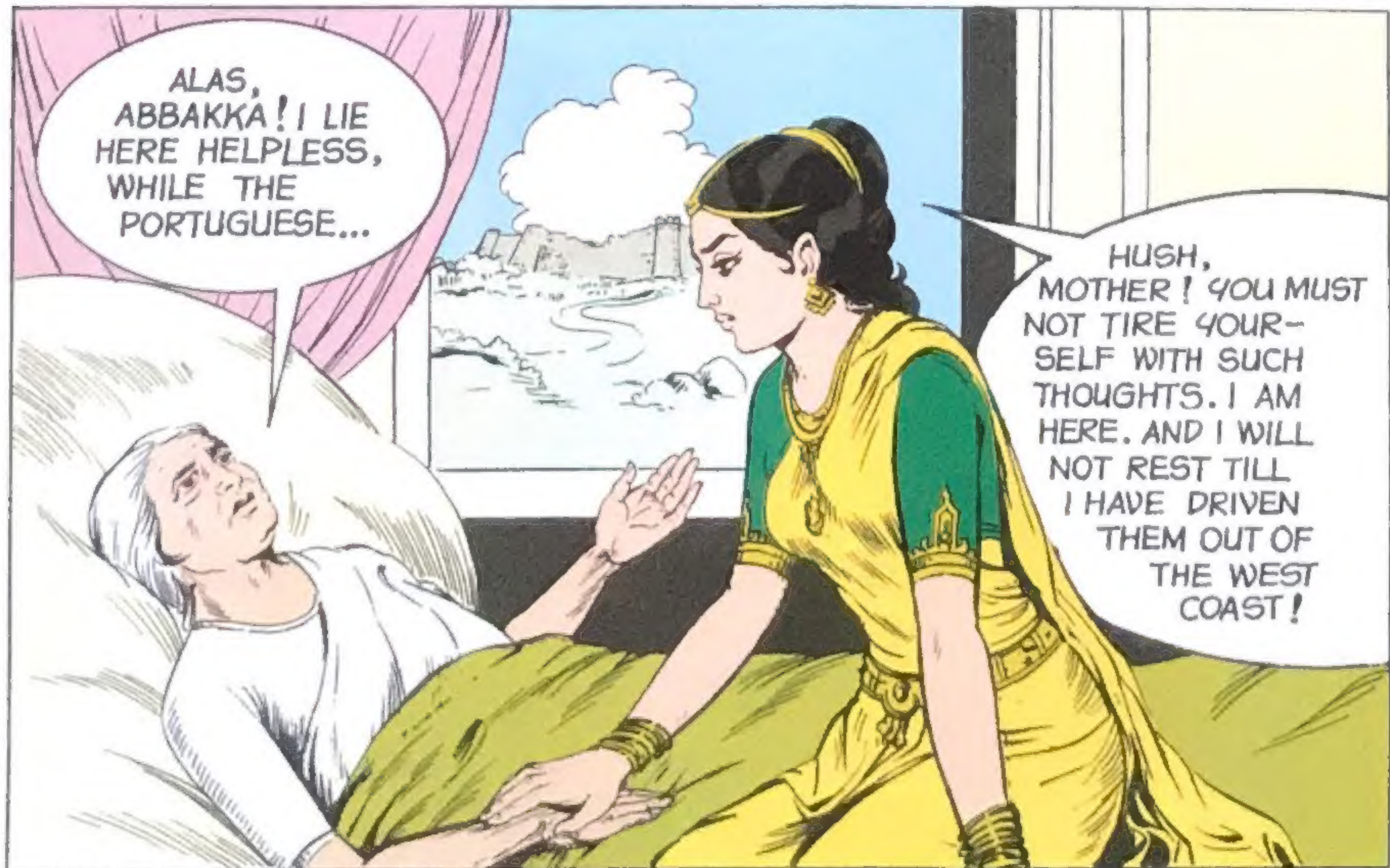


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RANI ABBAKKA

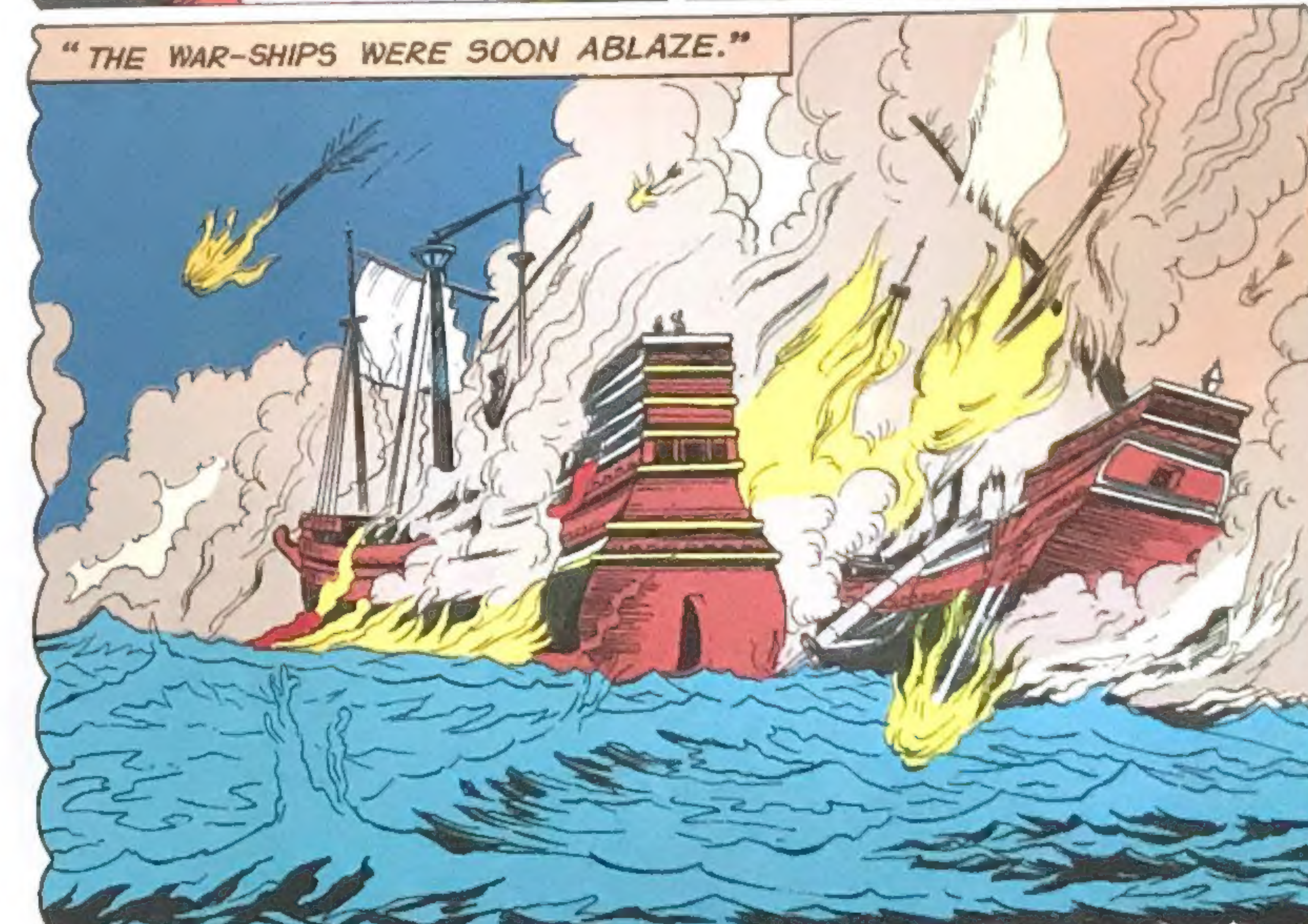
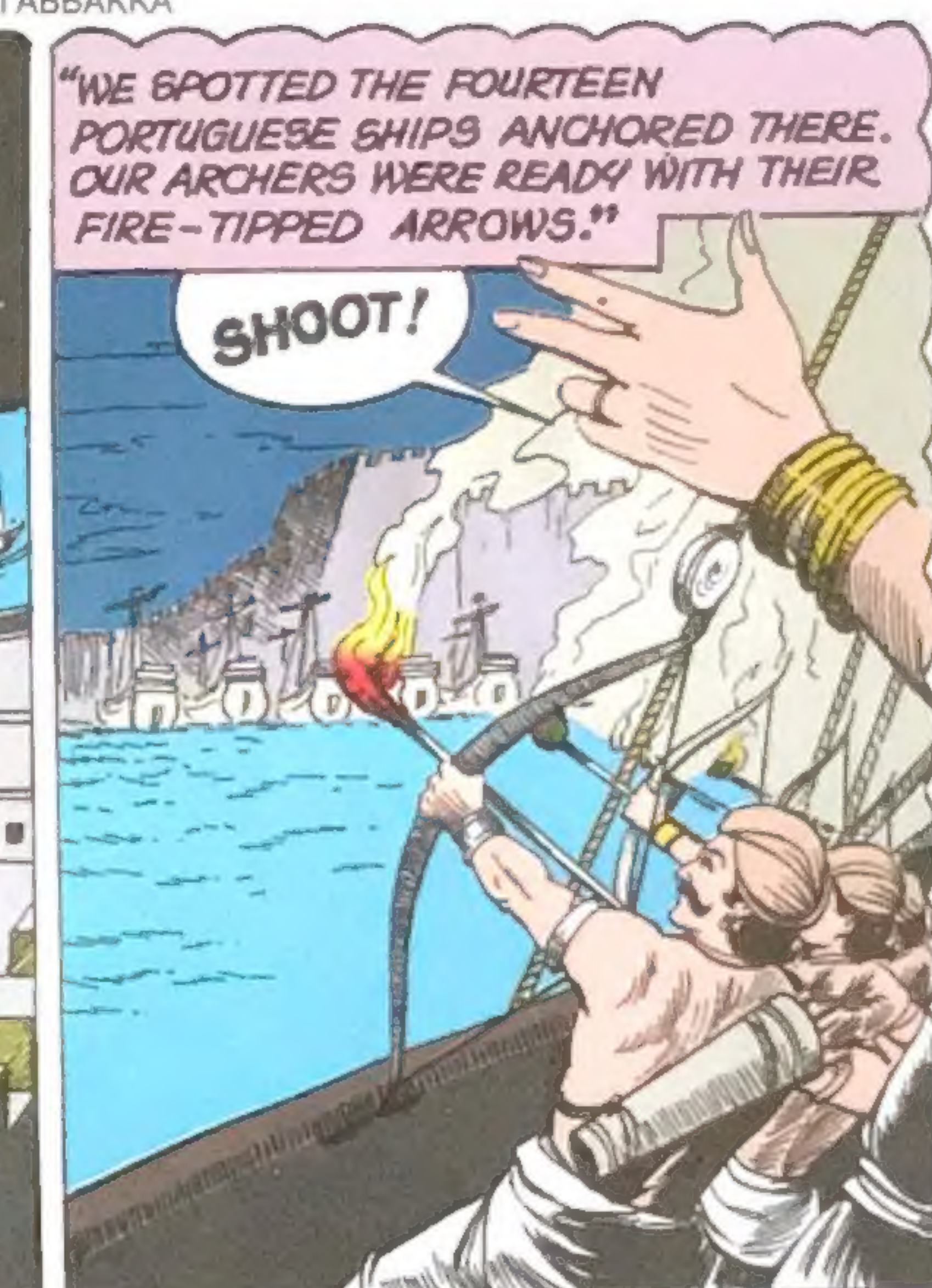
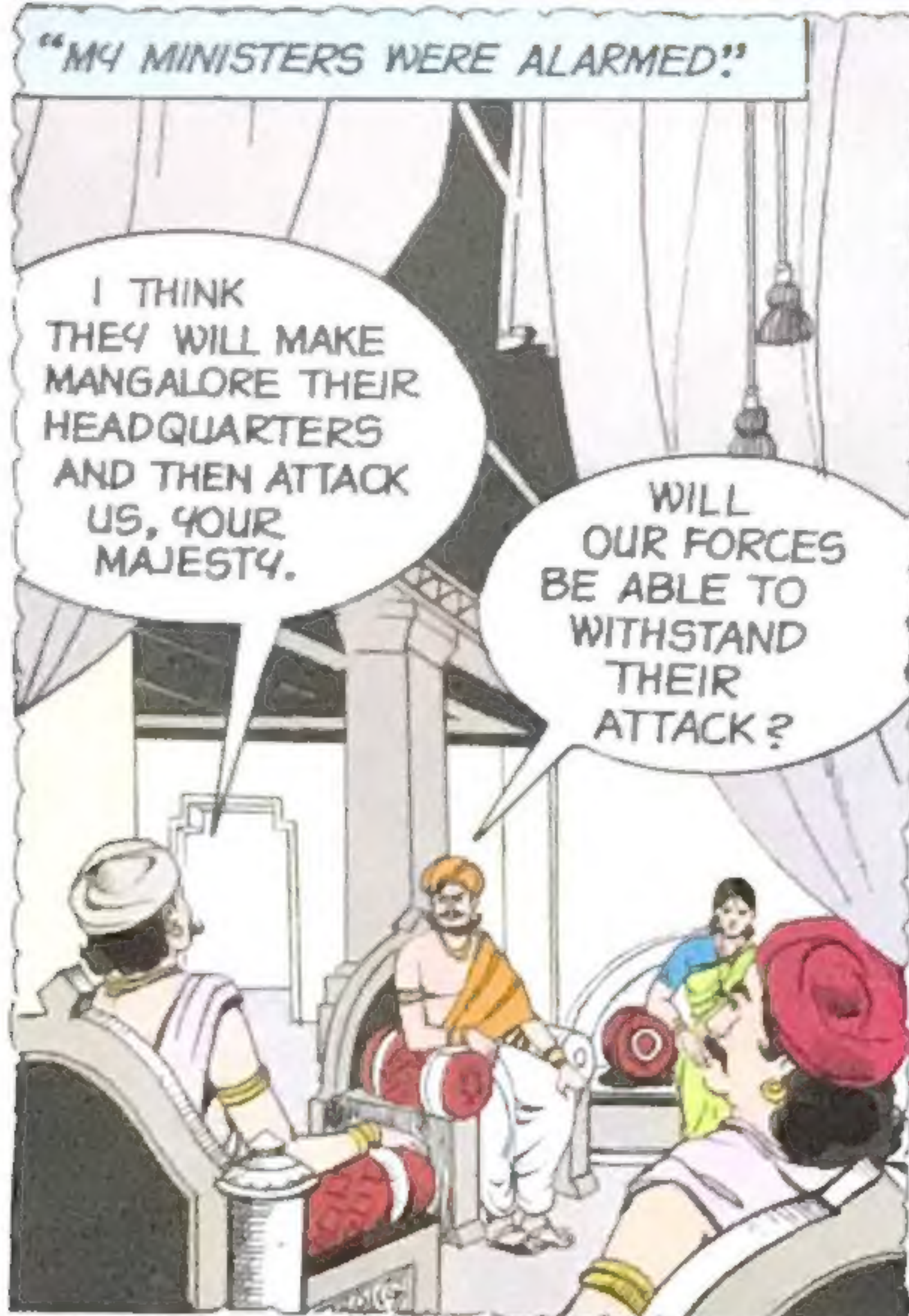
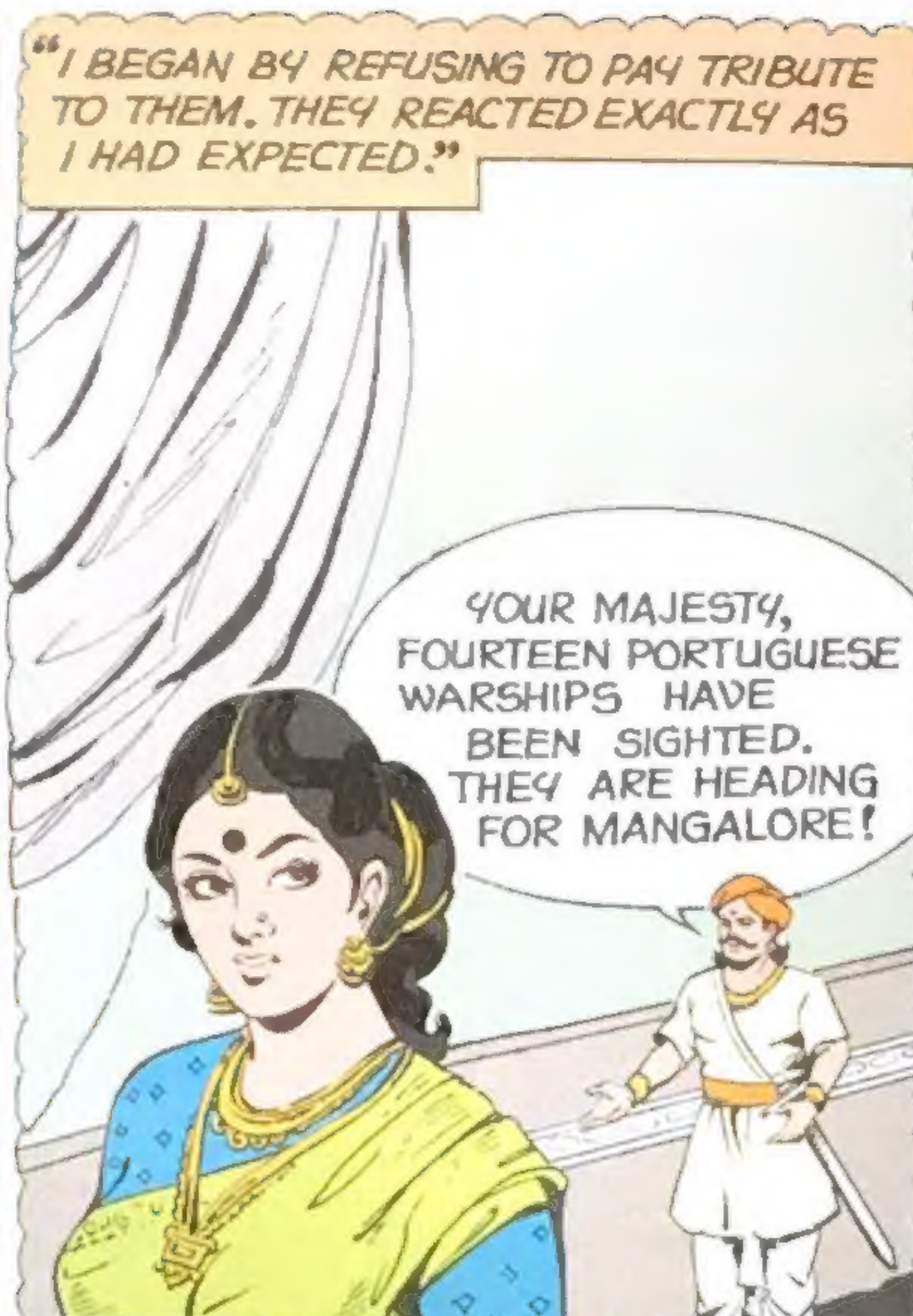


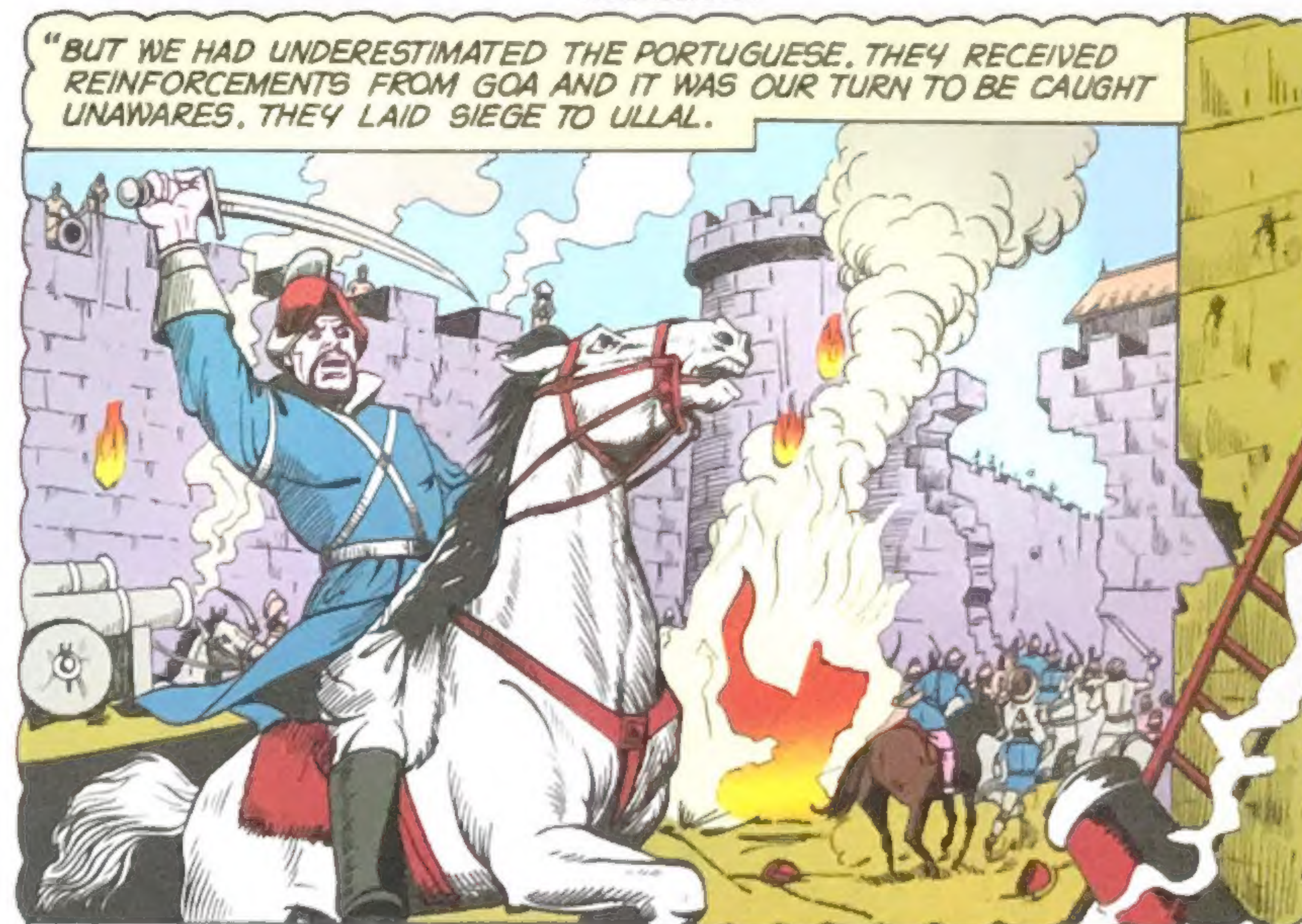
HIRIYAMMA^{*} ABBAKKA, THE QUEEN OF ULLAL[®] WAS ON HER DEATH-BED. HER DAUGHTER AND SUCCESSOR, ABBAKKA DEVI, WAS BY HER SIDE.

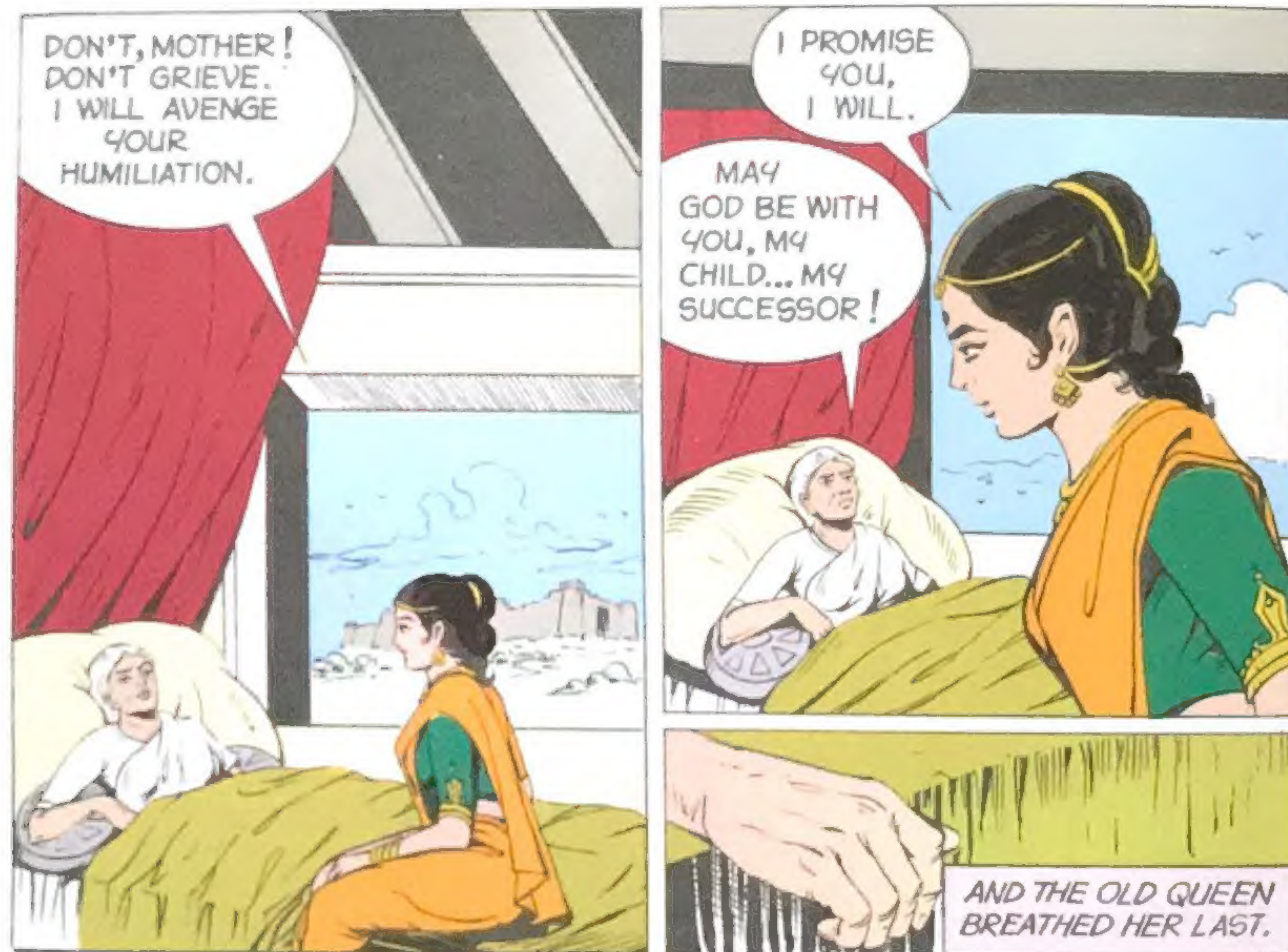


ALAS,
ABBAKKA! I LIE
HERE HELPLESS,
WHILE THE
PORTUGUESE...

HUSH,
MOTHER! YOU MUST
NOT TIRE YOUR-
SELF WITH SUCH
THOUGHTS. I AM
HERE. AND I WILL
NOT REST TILL
I HAVE DRIVEN
THEM OUT OF
THE WEST
COAST!



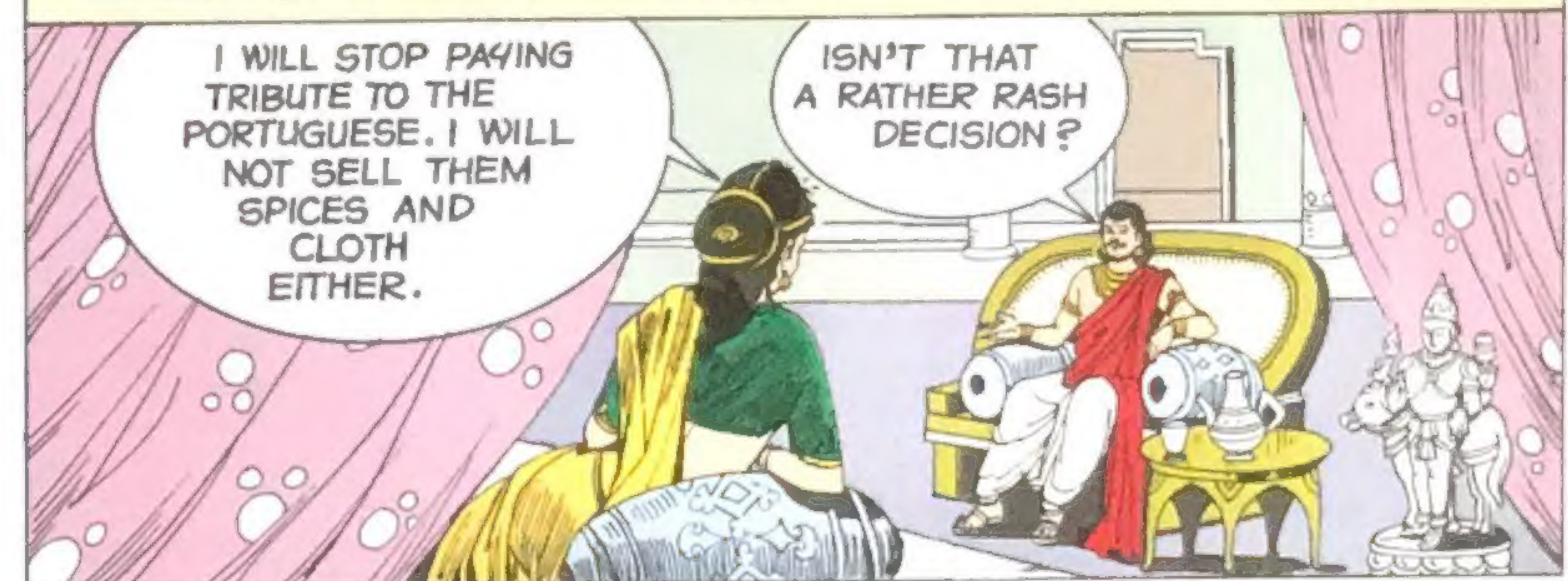


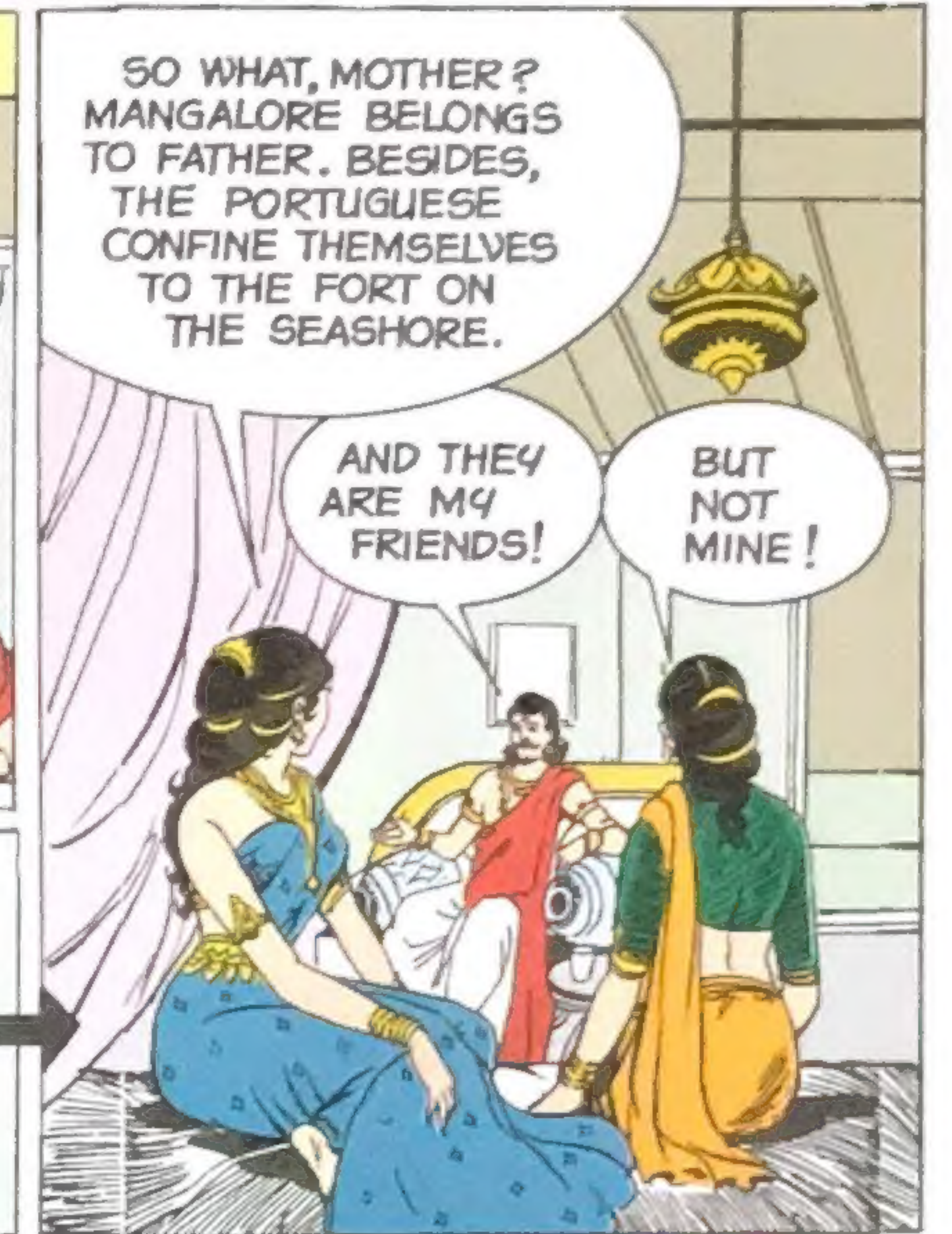
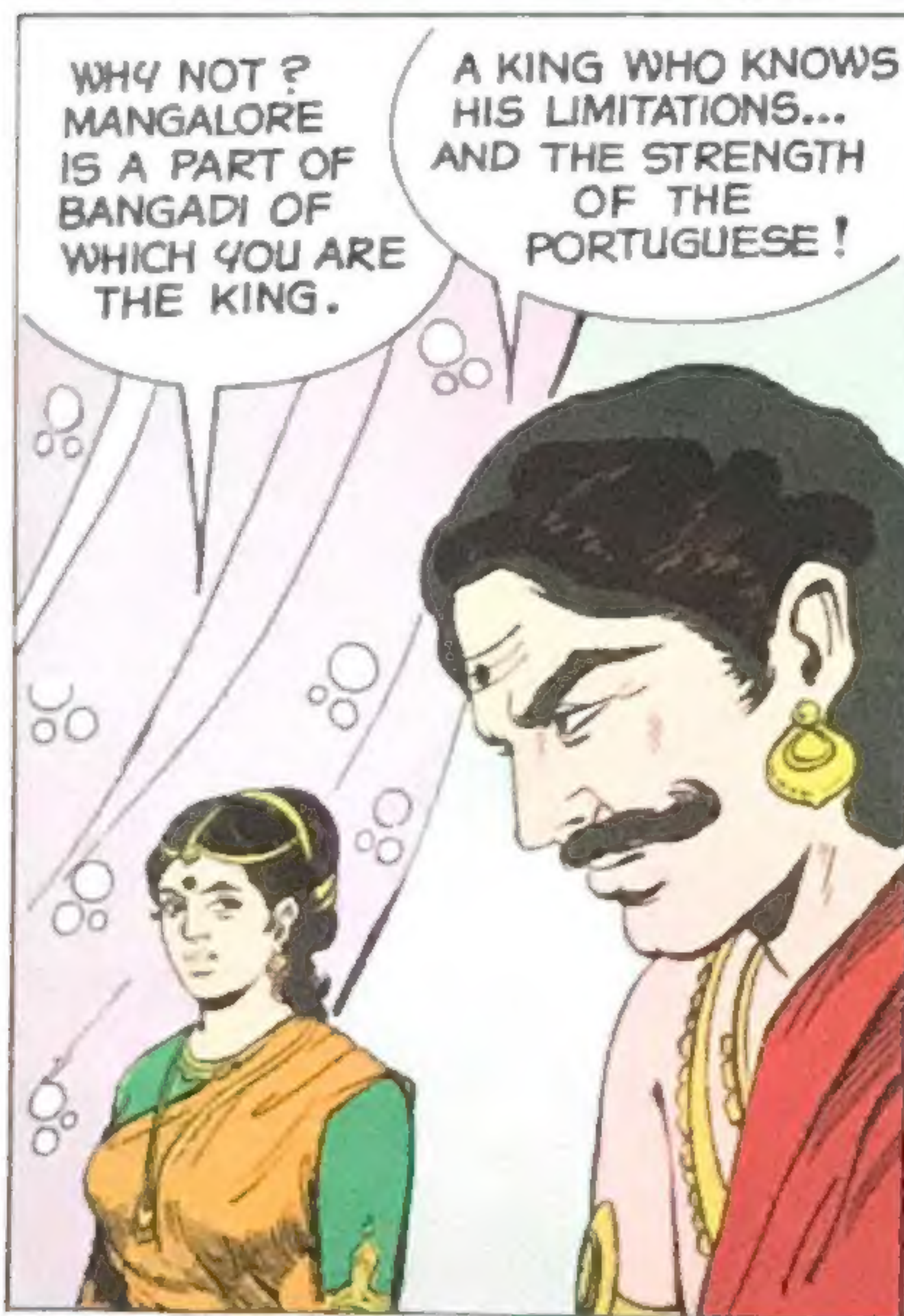
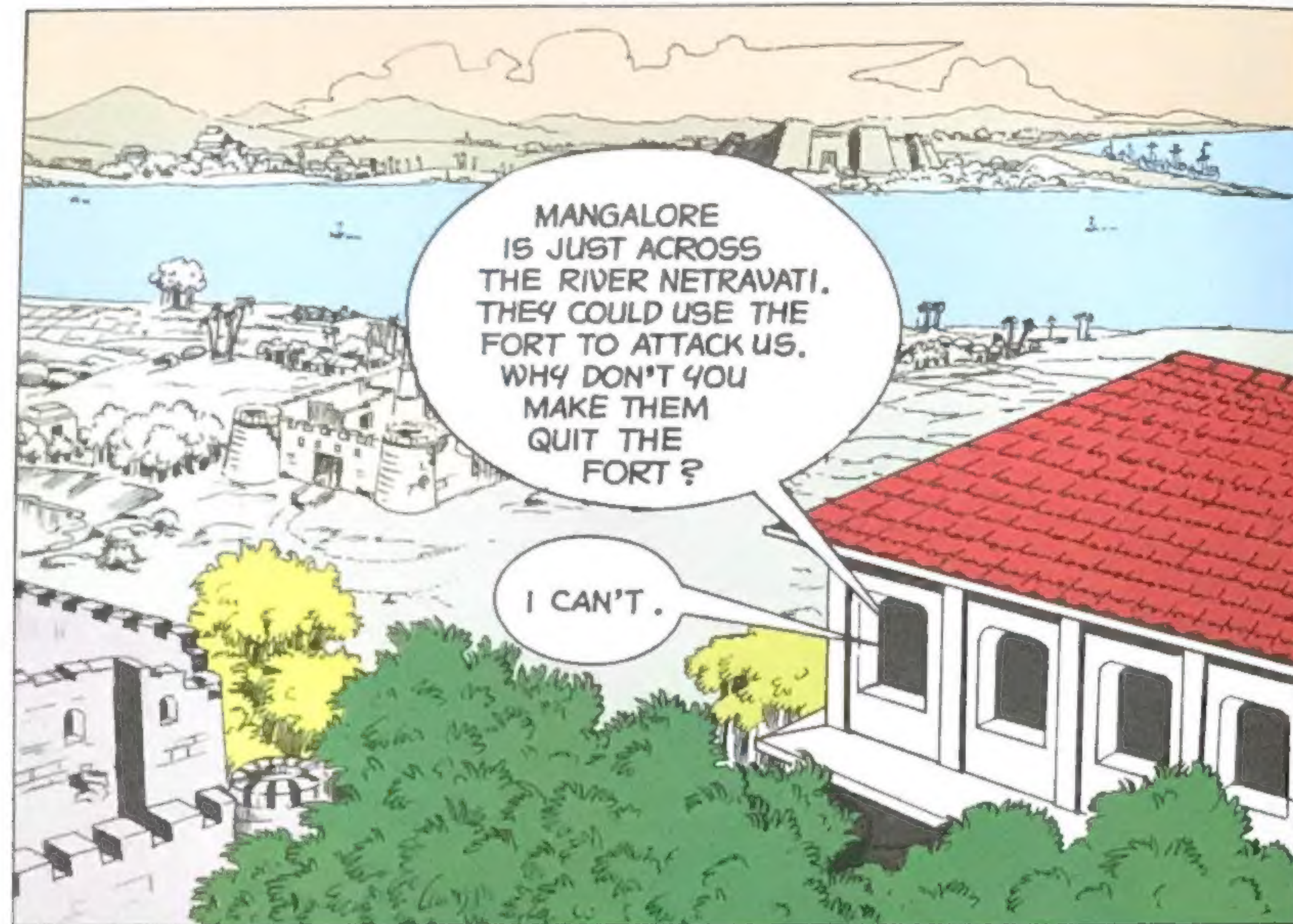


AND THE OLD QUEEN BREATHED HER LAST.



AFTER THE CORONATION, ABBAKKA SPOKE TO HER HUSBAND, VEERA NARASIMHA, THE KING OF BANGADI, ABOUT HER FUTURE PLANS.





HAVING GOT HER WAY, THE PRINCESS WALKED AWAY.

WE SHOULD FIND A GOOD HUSBAND FOR OUR DAUGHTER.



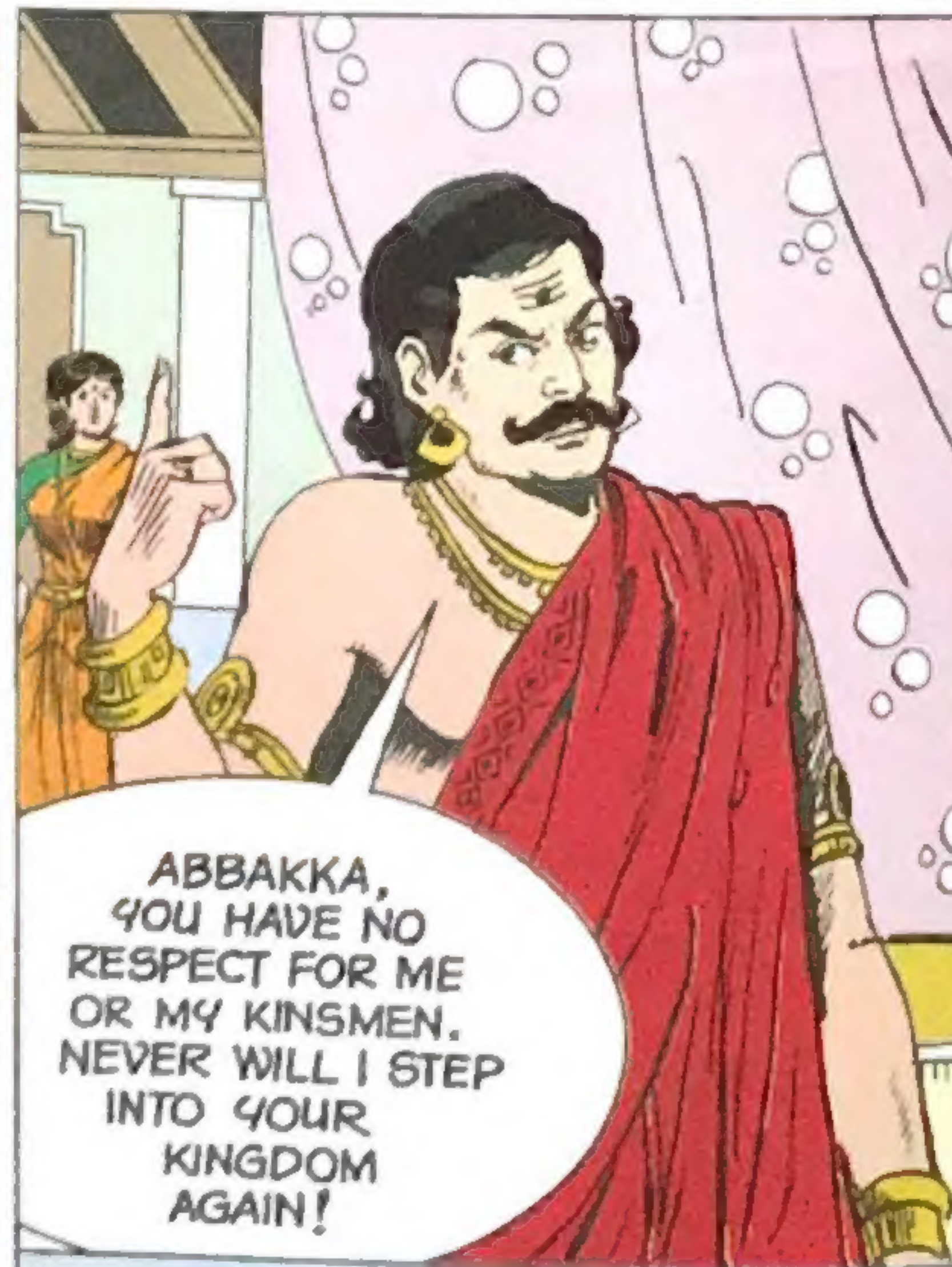
I HAVE ALREADY FOUND ONE. THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BANGADI — MY NEPHEW!



YOUR NEPHEW? THAT SPINELESS WASTREL? CERTAINLY NOT! MY DAUGHTER SHALL MARRY A MAN OF CHARACTER!



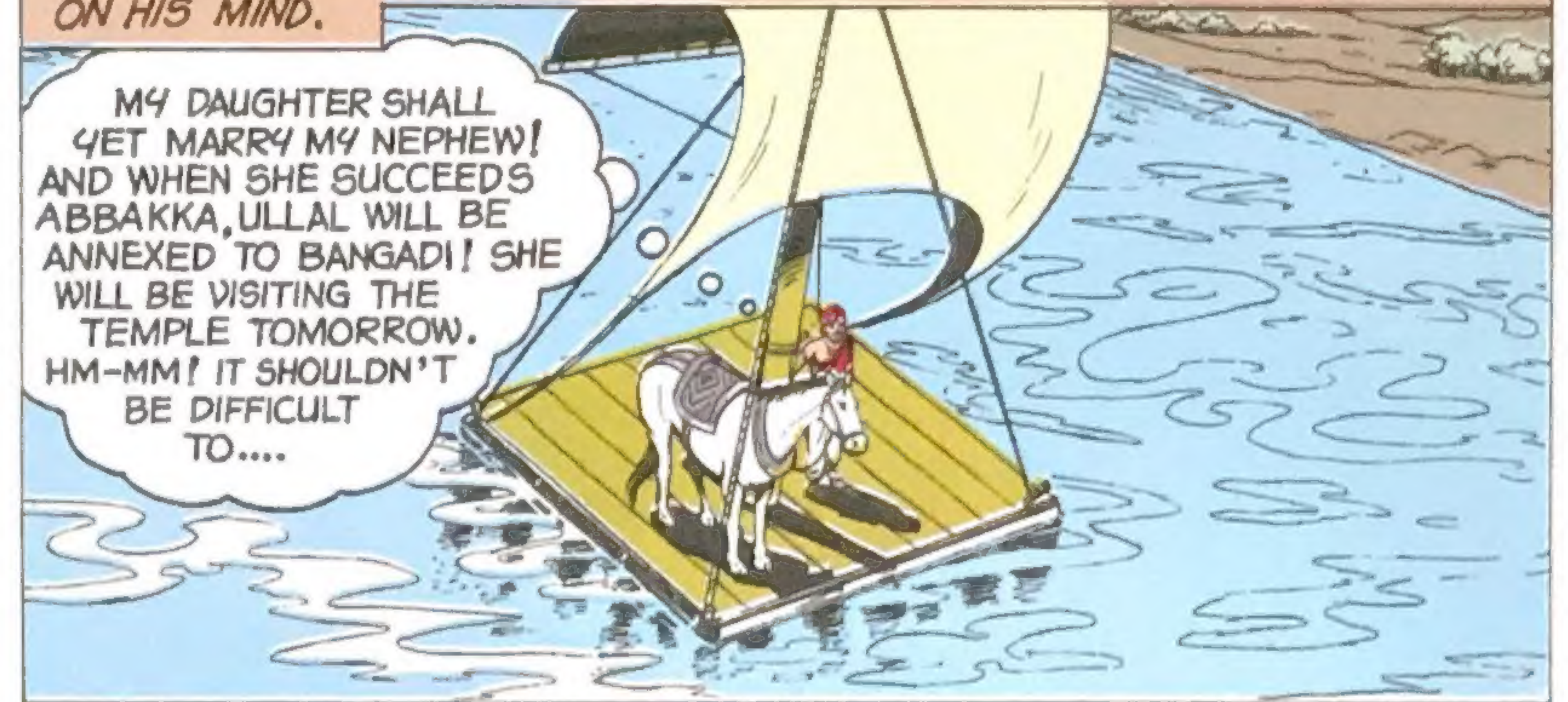
ABBAKKA, YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR ME OR MY KINSMEN. NEVER WILL I STEP INTO YOUR KINGDOM AGAIN!



AND VEERA NARASIMHA STOMPED OUT OF THE PALACE.

AS HE SAILED TOWARDS BANGADI, VEERA NARASIMHA HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT ON HIS MIND.

MY DAUGHTER SHALL YET MARRY MY NEPHEW! AND WHEN SHE SUCCEEDS ABBAKKA, ULLAL WILL BE ANNEXED TO BANGADI! SHE WILL BE VISITING THE TEMPLE TOMORROW. HM-MM! IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO....

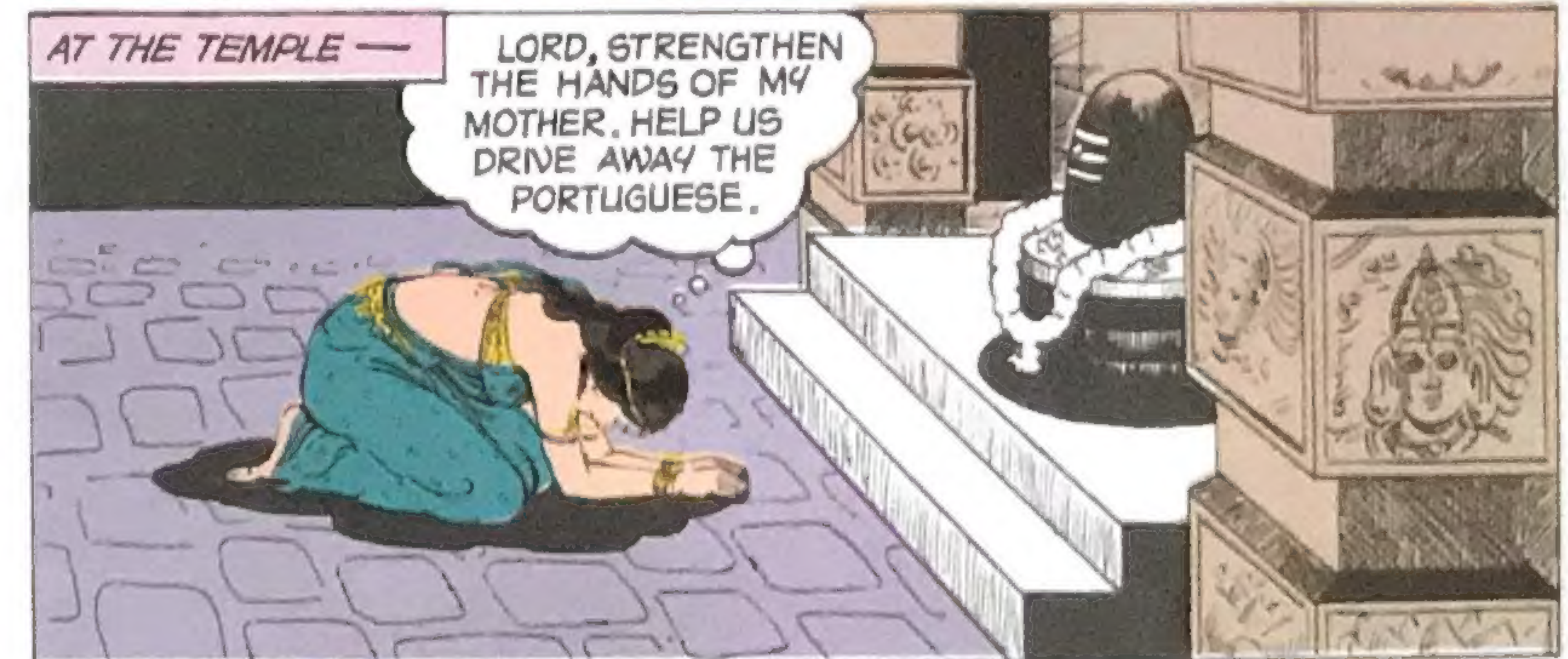


UNAWARE OF HER FATHER'S INTENTIONS, THE PRINCESS LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.



AT THE TEMPLE —

LORD, STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF MY MOTHER. HELP US DRIVE AWAY THE PORTUGUESE.



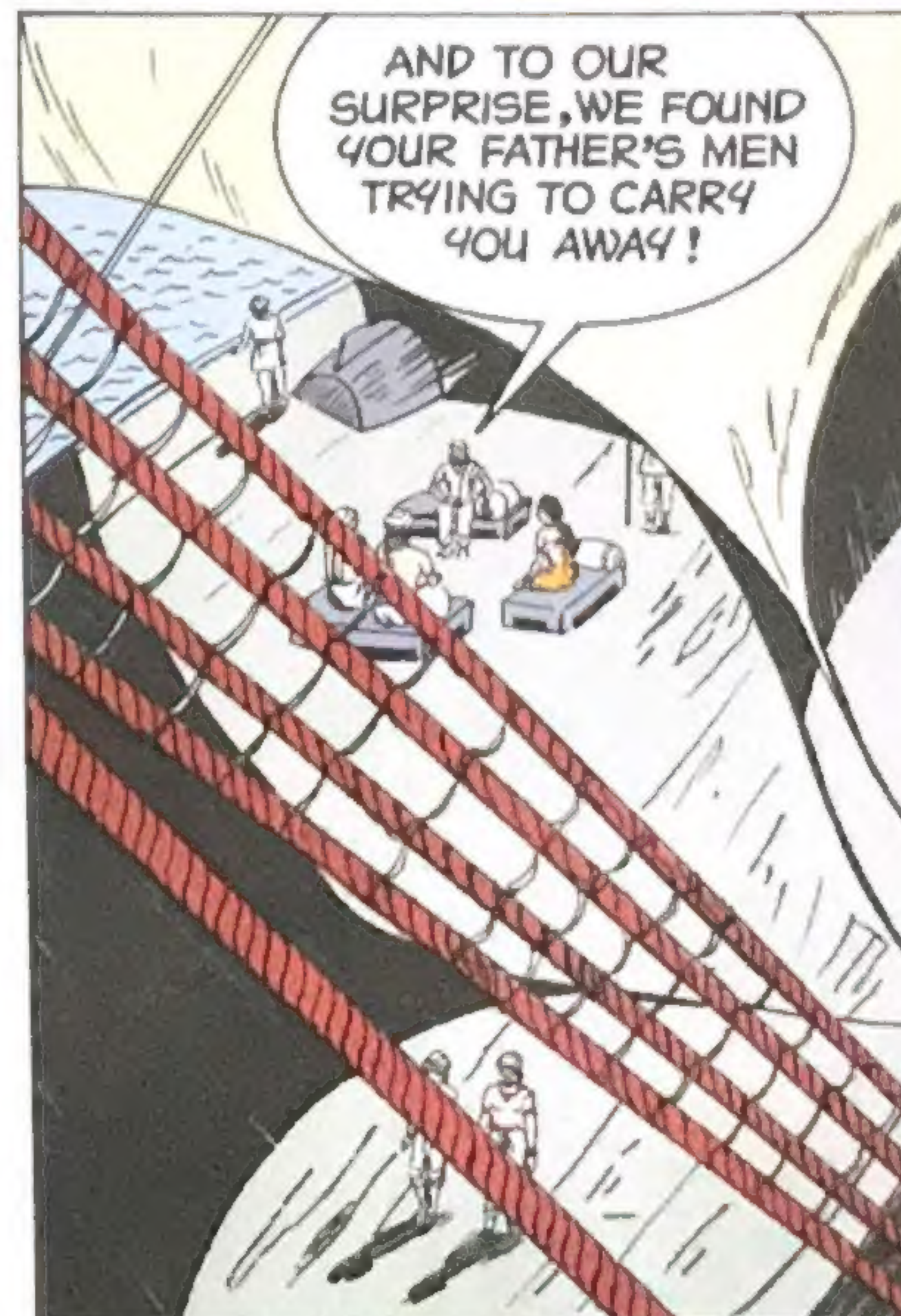
AS SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE —



THE MEN WERE FROM ULLAL. THEY FELL UPON THE KIDNAPPERS AND ROUTED THEM.



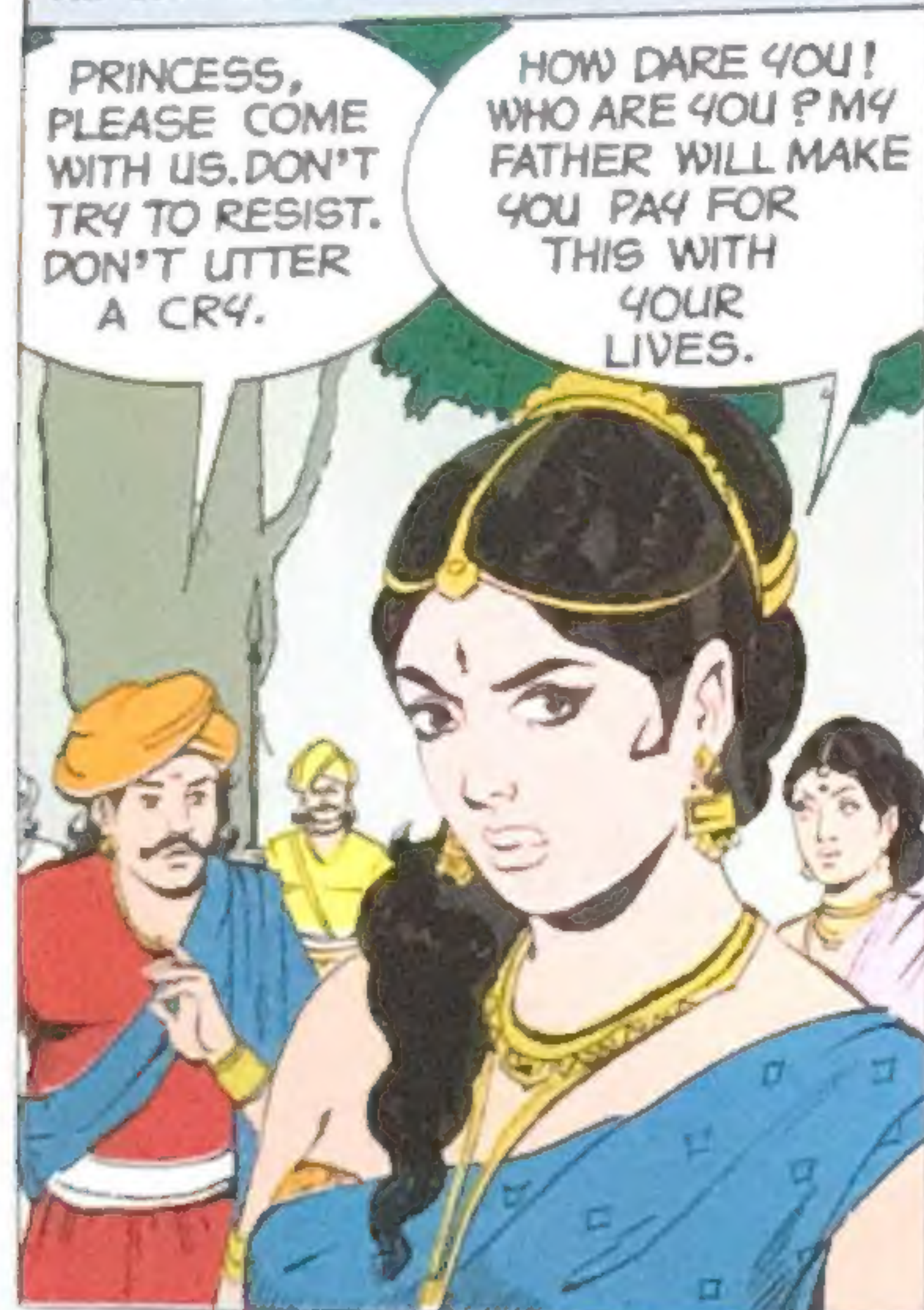
AS THEY ESCORTED THE PRINCESS BACK TO ULLAL —



WHEN SHE HEARD OF IT, ABBAKKA WAS HORRIFIED.



AS SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE —



THE MEN WERE FROM ULLAL. THEY FELL UPON THE KIDNAPPERS AND ROUTED THEM.



AS THEY ESCORTED THE PRINCESS BACK TO ULLAL —



AND SOON THE PRINCESS WAS MARRIED TO A NOBLE PRINCE. ALL THE RULERS OF THE NEIGHBOURING TERRITORIES, EXCEPT VEERA NARASIMHA, CAME TO ULLAL FOR THE WEDDING.



AFTER THE WEDDING, ABBAKKA ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE RAJAS.



IF WE UNITE AND FIGHT, WE COULD DRIVE THE PORTUGUESE OUT OF OUR LAND.

IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM.

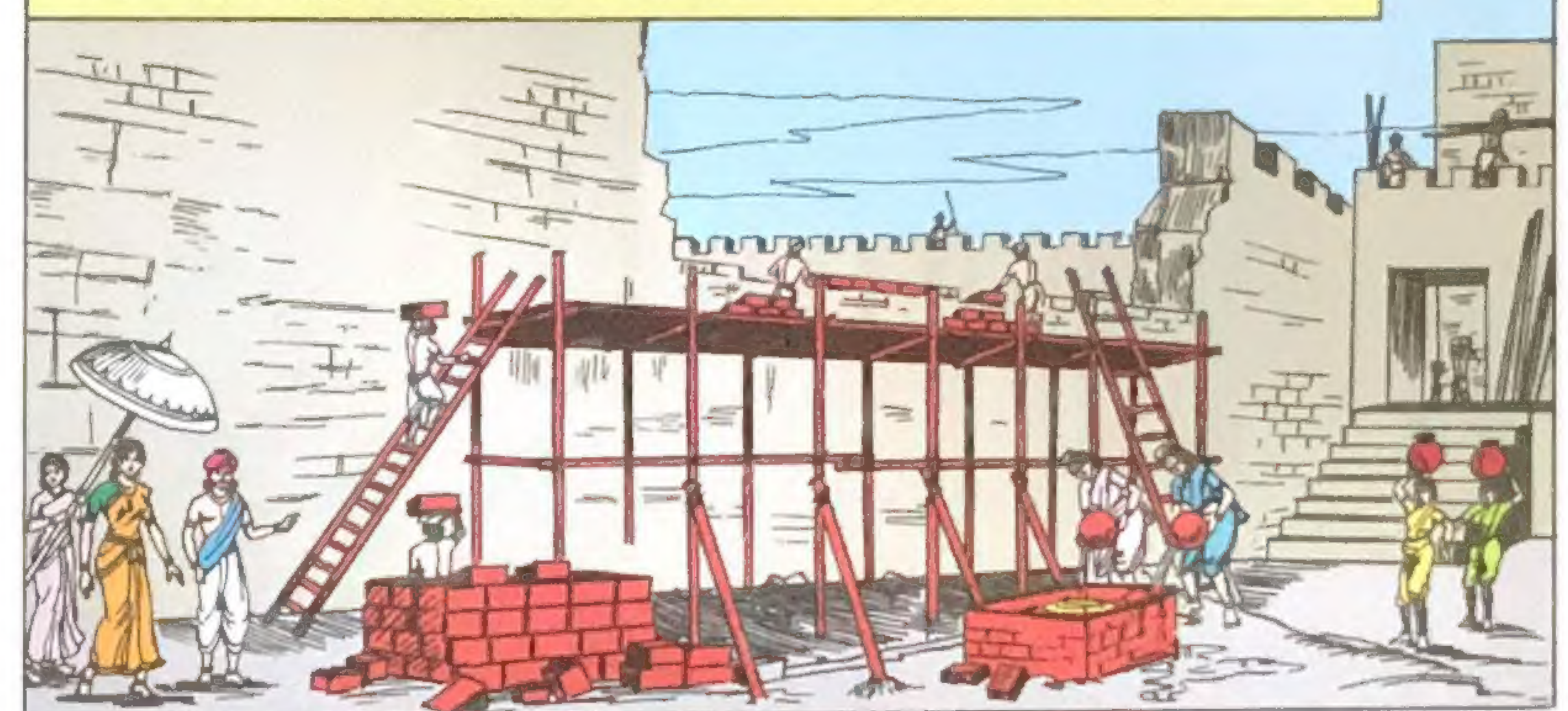
I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO PROVOKE THEM.

THEIR REACTIONS ONLY SERVED TO STRENGTHEN ABBAKKA'S RESOLVE.



I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE PORTUGUESE ALONE. FOR FIGHT THEM I WILL — SINGLE-HANDED, IF NEED BE!

HER FIRST MOVE WAS TO RESTORE THE RUINED FORT OF ULLAL.



THEN SHE HAD BIGGER AND BETTER MERCHANT-SHIPS BUILT, FOR TRADE WITH DISTANT COUNTRIES. SOON —



YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE READY TO SAIL FOR ARABIA.

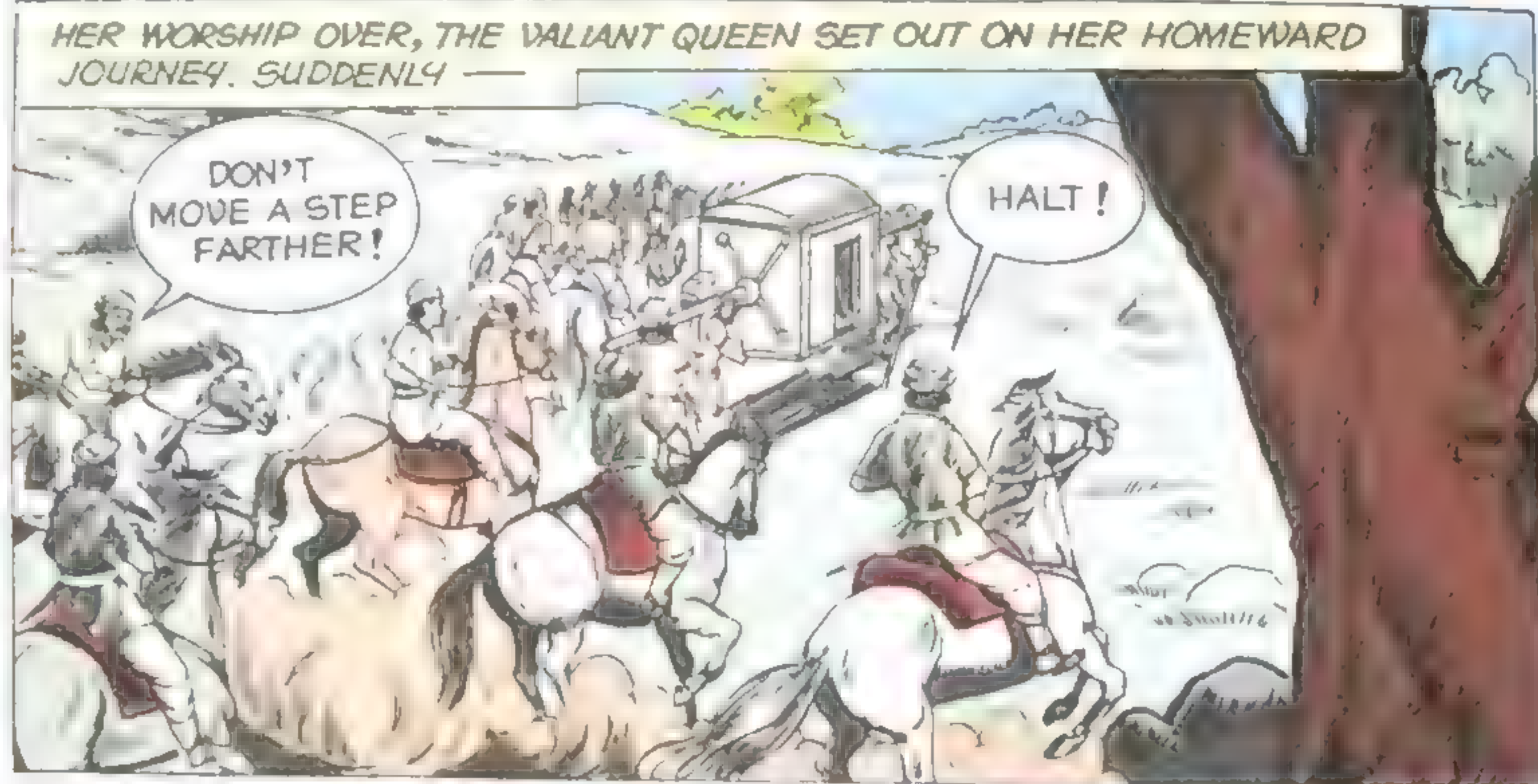
YOU WILL SAIL AS SOON AS I RETURN FROM POLALI.

ABBAKKA HAD OFTEN VISITED THE ANCESTRAL TEMPLE OF DURGA AT POLALI, BUT NEVER HAD HER PRAYERS BEEN SO FERVENT.

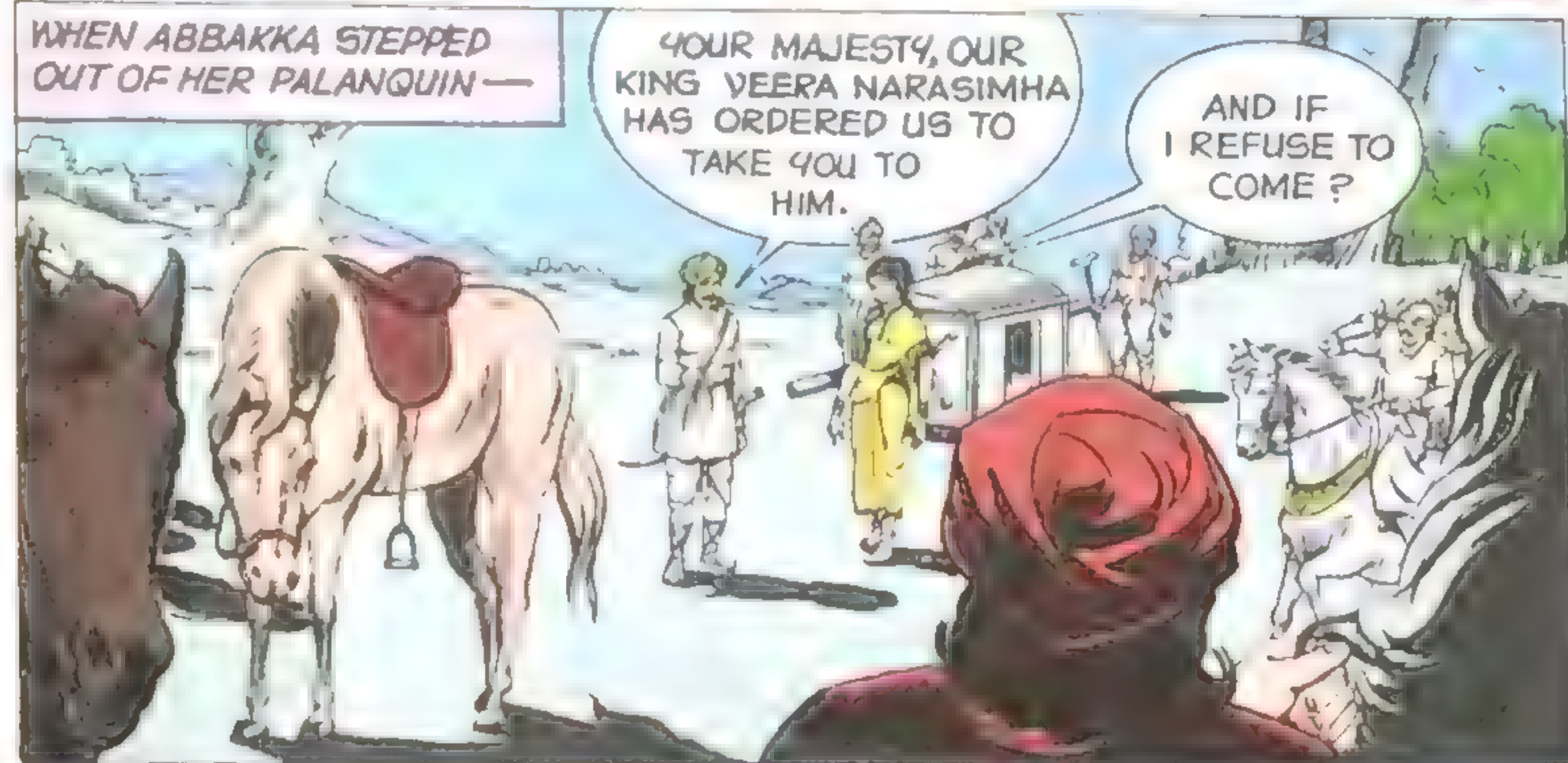


MOTHER DURGA, BLESS ME AND MY PEOPLE. WE NEED YOUR BLESSINGS NOW AS WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED THEM BEFORE.

HER WORSHIP OVER, THE VALIANT QUEEN SET OUT ON HER HOMEWARD JOURNEY. SUDDENLY —

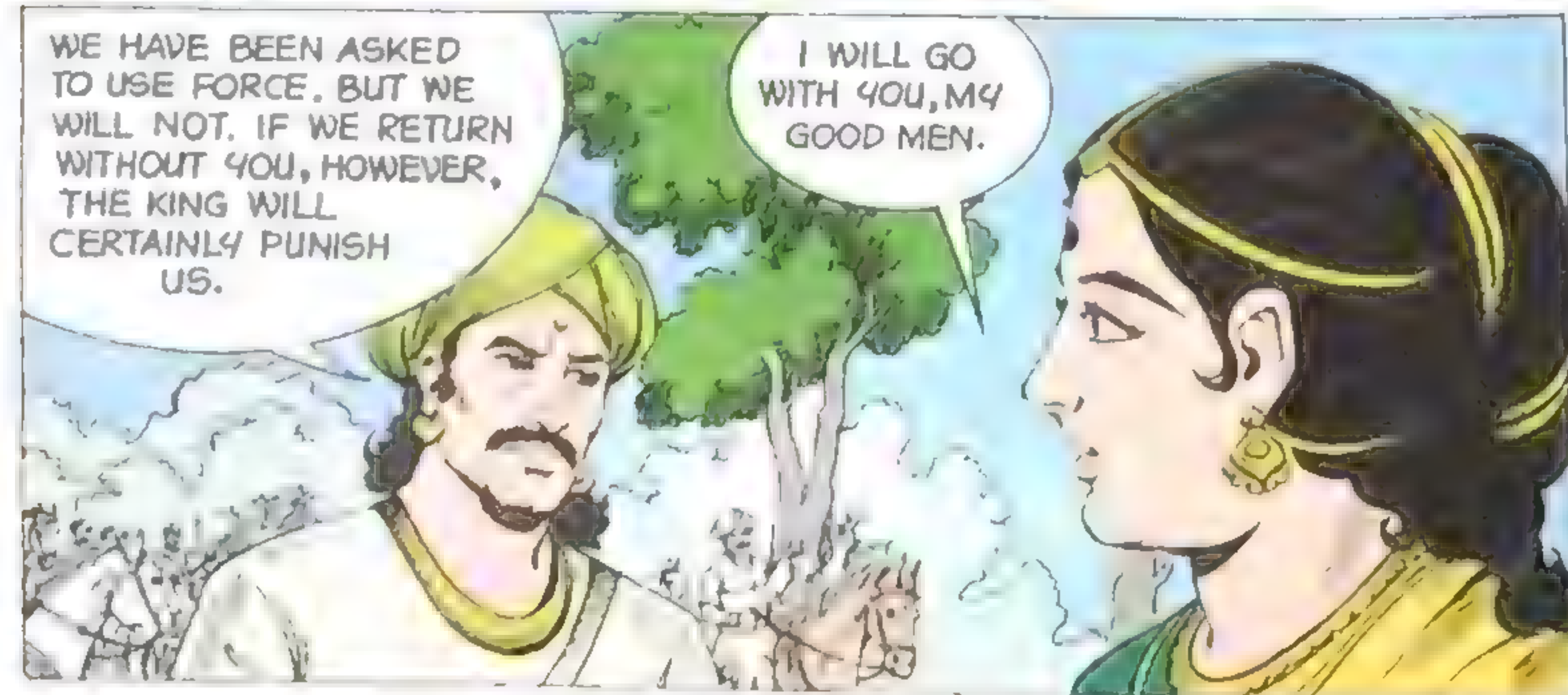


WHEN ABBAKKA STEPPED OUT OF HER PALANQUIN —



WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO USE FORCE. BUT WE WILL NOT. IF WE RETURN WITHOUT YOU, HOWEVER, THE KING WILL CERTAINLY PUNISH US.

I WILL GO WITH YOU, MY GOOD MEN.

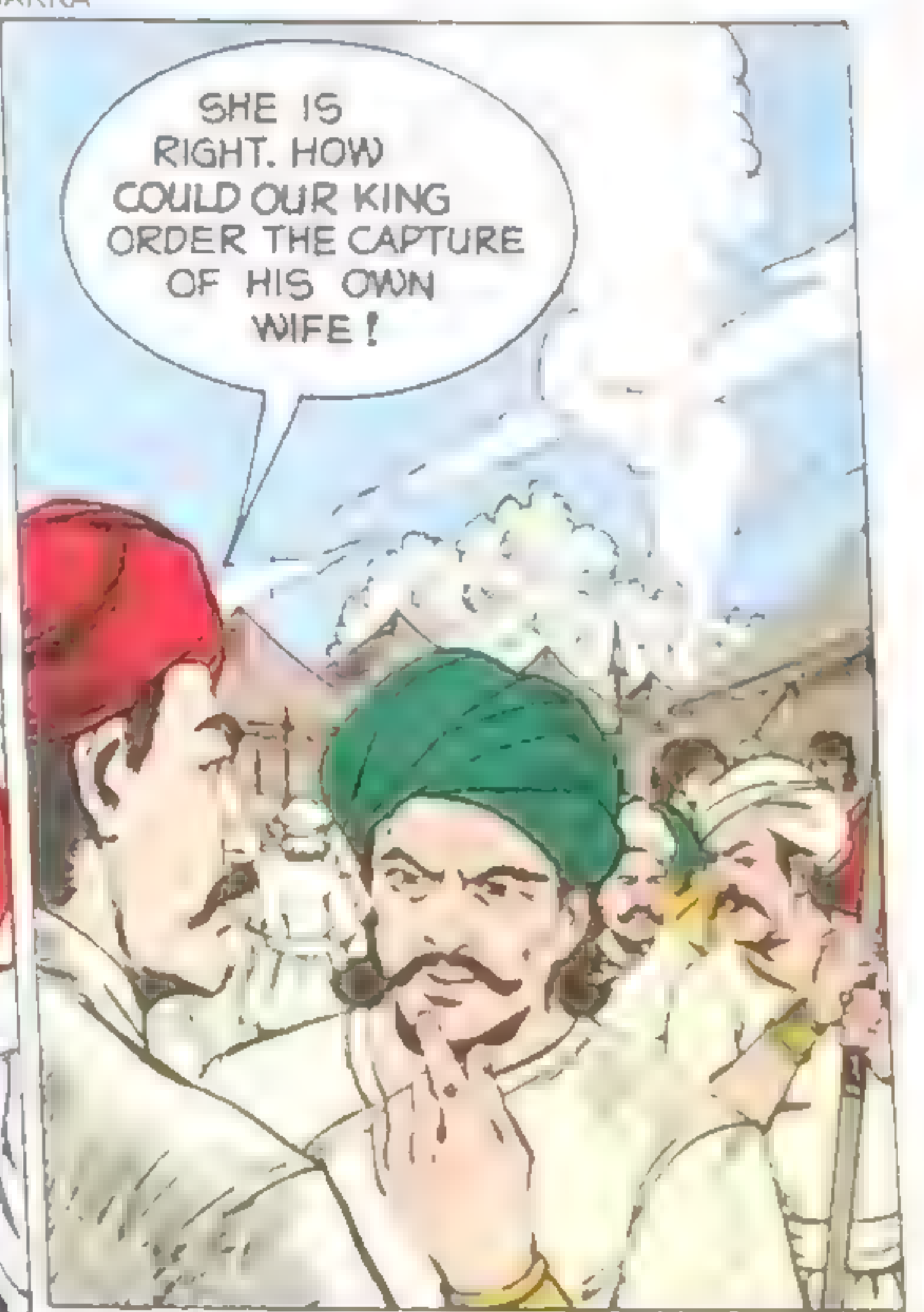


WELCOME! THE GREAT QUEEN OF ULLAL HAS AT LAST DEIGNED TO VISIT US!

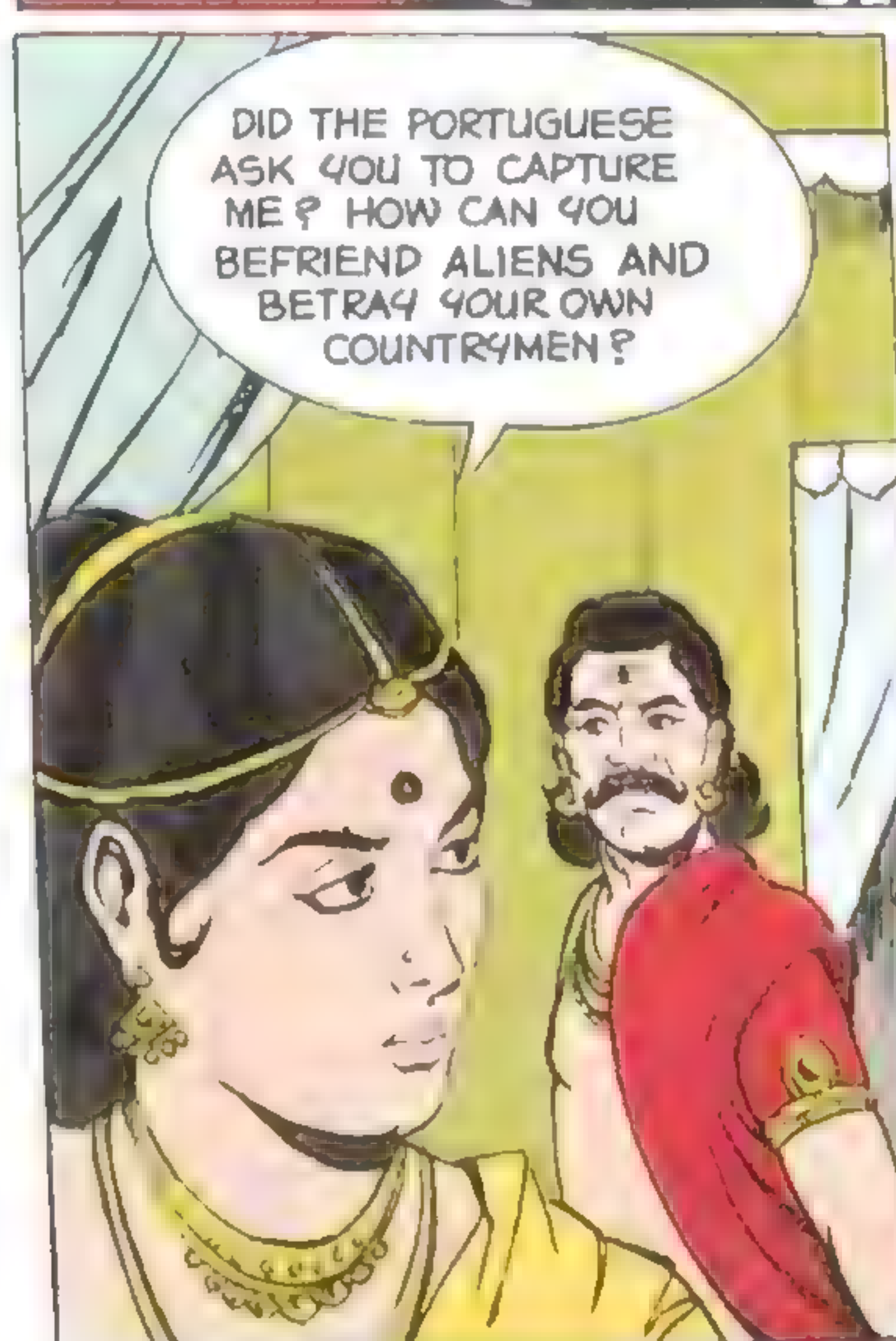
A WORD FROM YOU WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE — MY HUSBAND. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO SEND ARMED MEN INSTEAD?



SHE IS RIGHT. HOW COULD OUR KING ORDER THE CAPTURE OF HIS OWN WIFE!



DID THE PORTUGUESE ASK YOU TO CAPTURE ME? HOW CAN YOU BEFRIEND ALIENS AND BETRAY YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN?



I MUST GET BACK TO MY KINGDOM. STOP ME IF YOU DARE.



AS ABBAKKA WALKED AWAY —



BUT SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY THE BRAVE QUEEN THAT NO ONE STIRRED.

SUDDENLY —



IT WAS THE ARMY FROM ULLAL.

WHEN ABBAKKA RETURNED TO ULLAL, SHE FOUND AN ENVOY FROM KOZHICODE* AWAITING HER.



YOUR MAJESTY, THE ZAMORIN* WISHES TO SEND HIS SHIPS ALONG WITH YOURS, TO ARABIA.

* ALSO KNOWN AS CALICUT

* RULER OF KOZHICODE.

THE NEXT DAY, A PORTUGUESE ENVOY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE QUEEN.

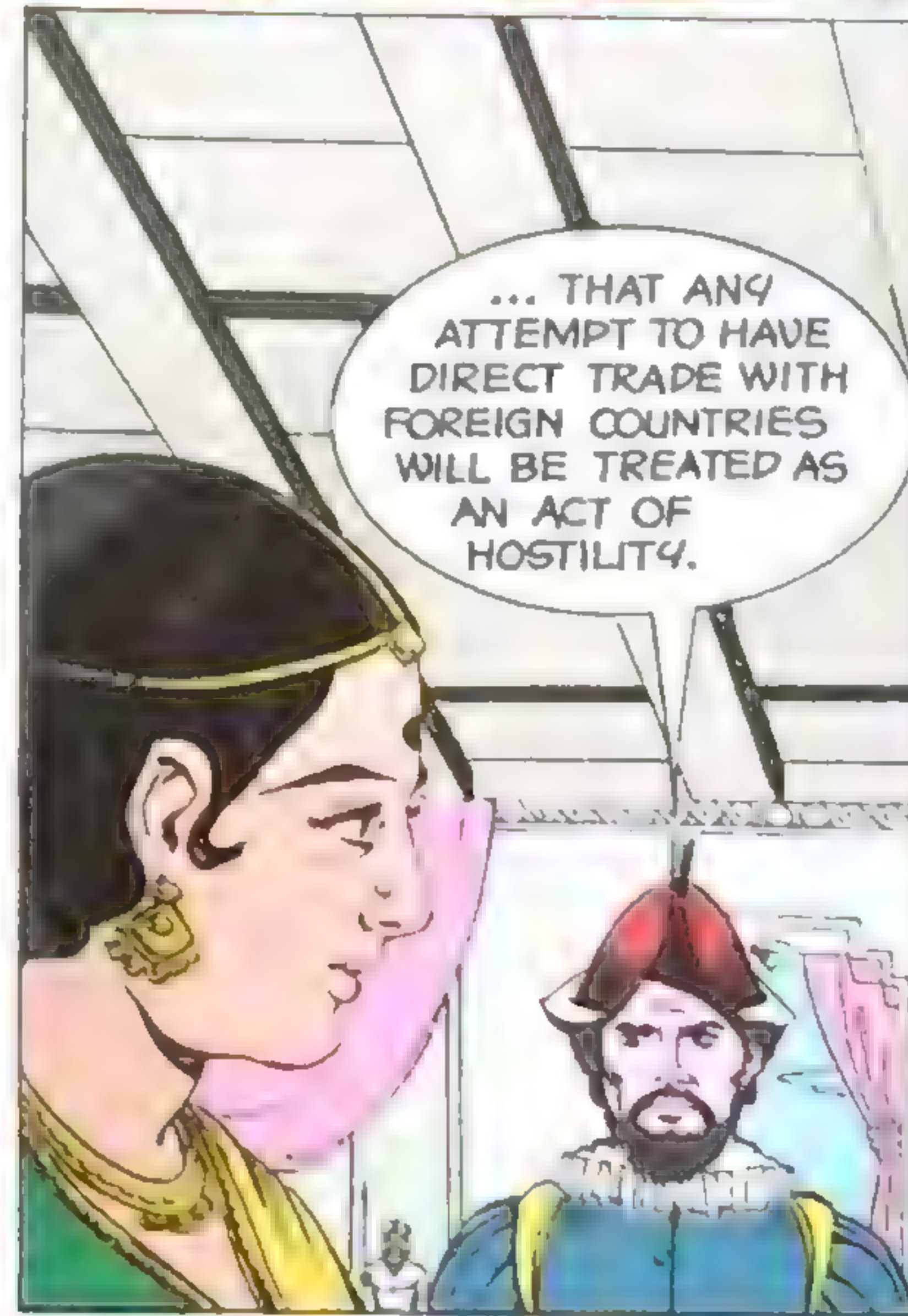


TELL THE ZAMORIN THAT OUR SHIPS SAIL NEXT WEEK.

OURS WILL BE READY BY THEN, YOUR MAJESTY.



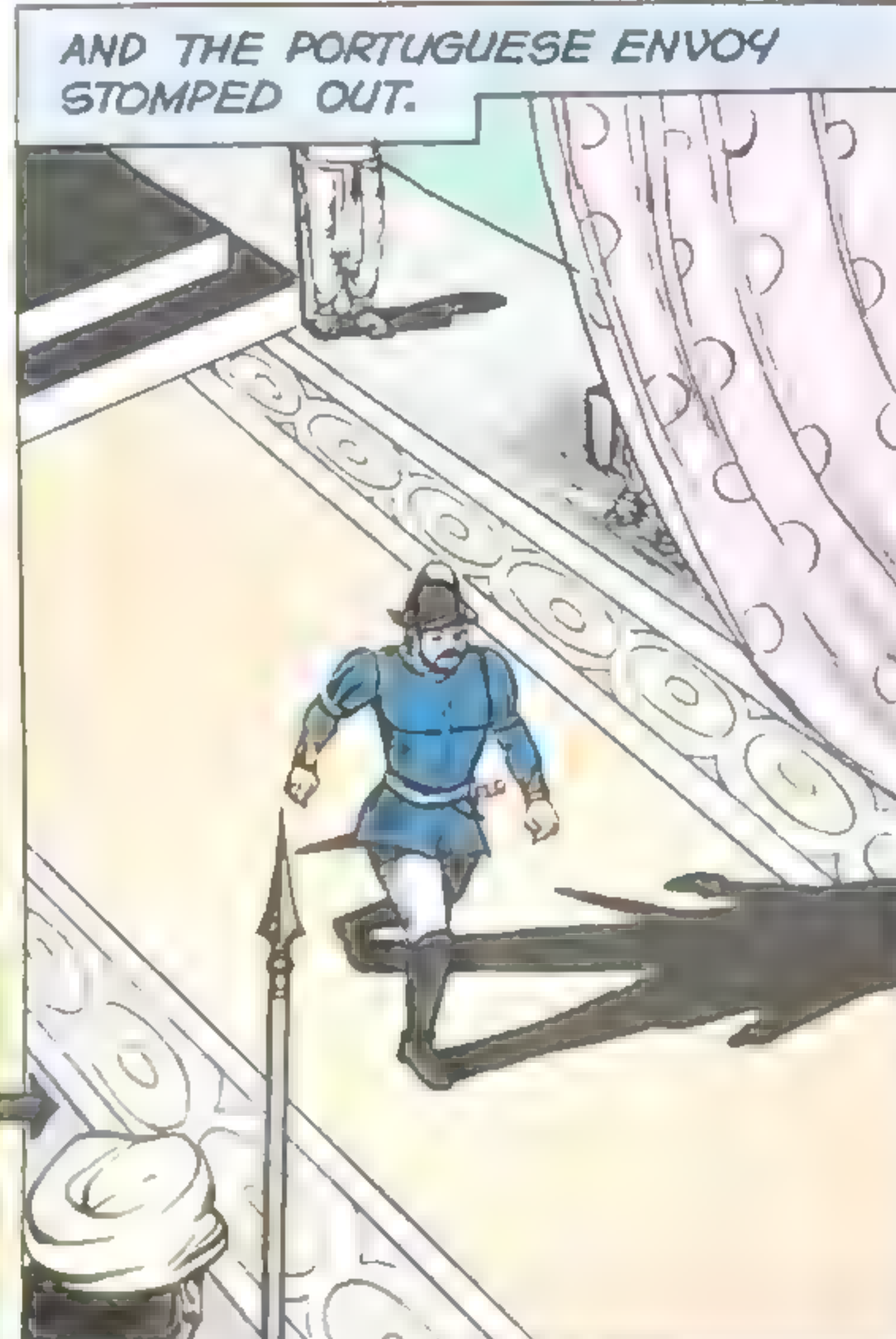
OUR GOVERNOR HAS SENT ME TO REMIND YOU THAT THE ANNUAL TRIBUTE FROM ULLAL IS LONG OVERDUE. AND...



... THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO HAVE DIRECT TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL BE TREATED AS AN ACT OF HOSTILITY.



IF THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT IS TO UTTER THREATS, YOU HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE.



THE SHIPS CALLED AT THE PORT OF ARABIA AND SOLD SPICES AND CLOTH AT A HUGE PROFIT.



THE SHIPS SET OUT ON THE RETURN JOURNEY. ON THE WAY —



THE PORTUGUESE SAILORS SWUNG ON BOARD THE INDIAN SHIPS.



A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

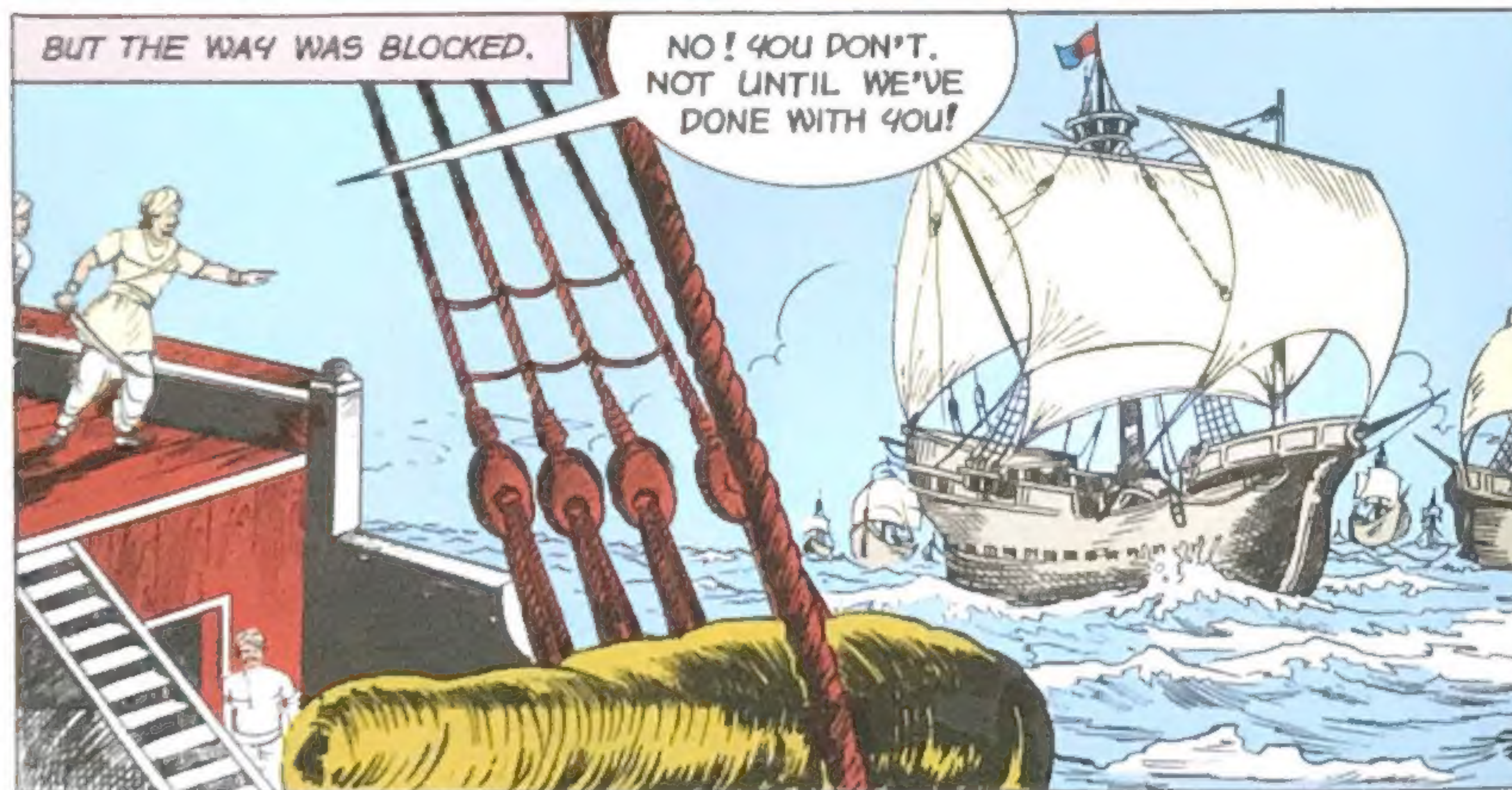


THE LEADER OF ABBAKKA'S FLEET TOOK A QUICK DECISION.





THOSE SHIPS ARE ESCAPING. INTERCEPT THEM!



BUT THE WAY WAS BLOCKED.

NO! YOU DON'T. NOT UNTIL WE'VE DONE WITH YOU!

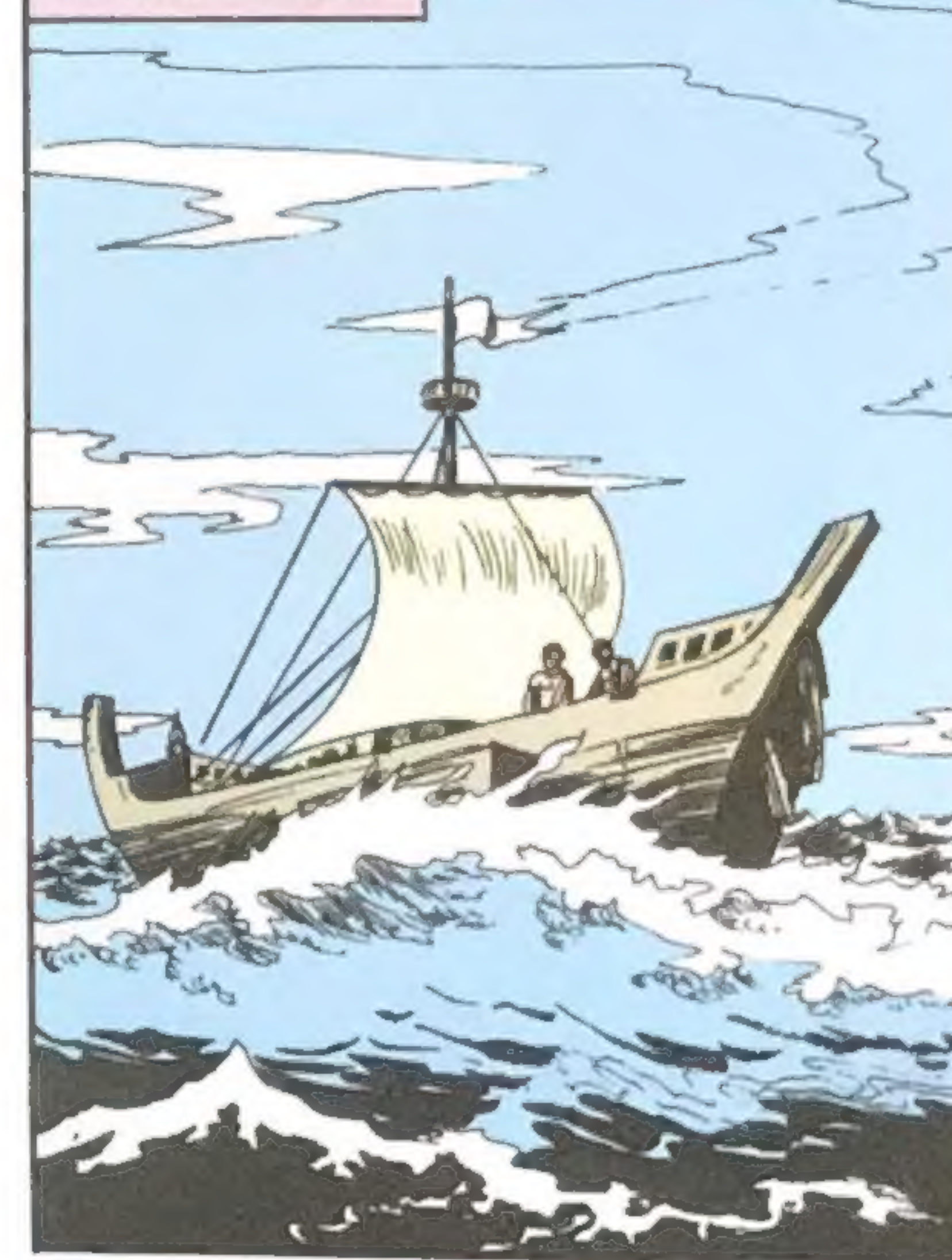


ALL THE SHIPS EXCEPTING THE COMMANDER'S REACHED ULLAL.

I WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS.

YOUR MAJESTY, OUR COMMANDER KEPT THEM BUSY WHILE WE ESCAPED. HIS SHIP MUST HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY.

A SPECIAL ENVOY LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.



WHEN HE REACHED THE MANGALORE FORT —



I COME WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN OF ULLAL. TAKE ME TO YOUR COMMANDER.

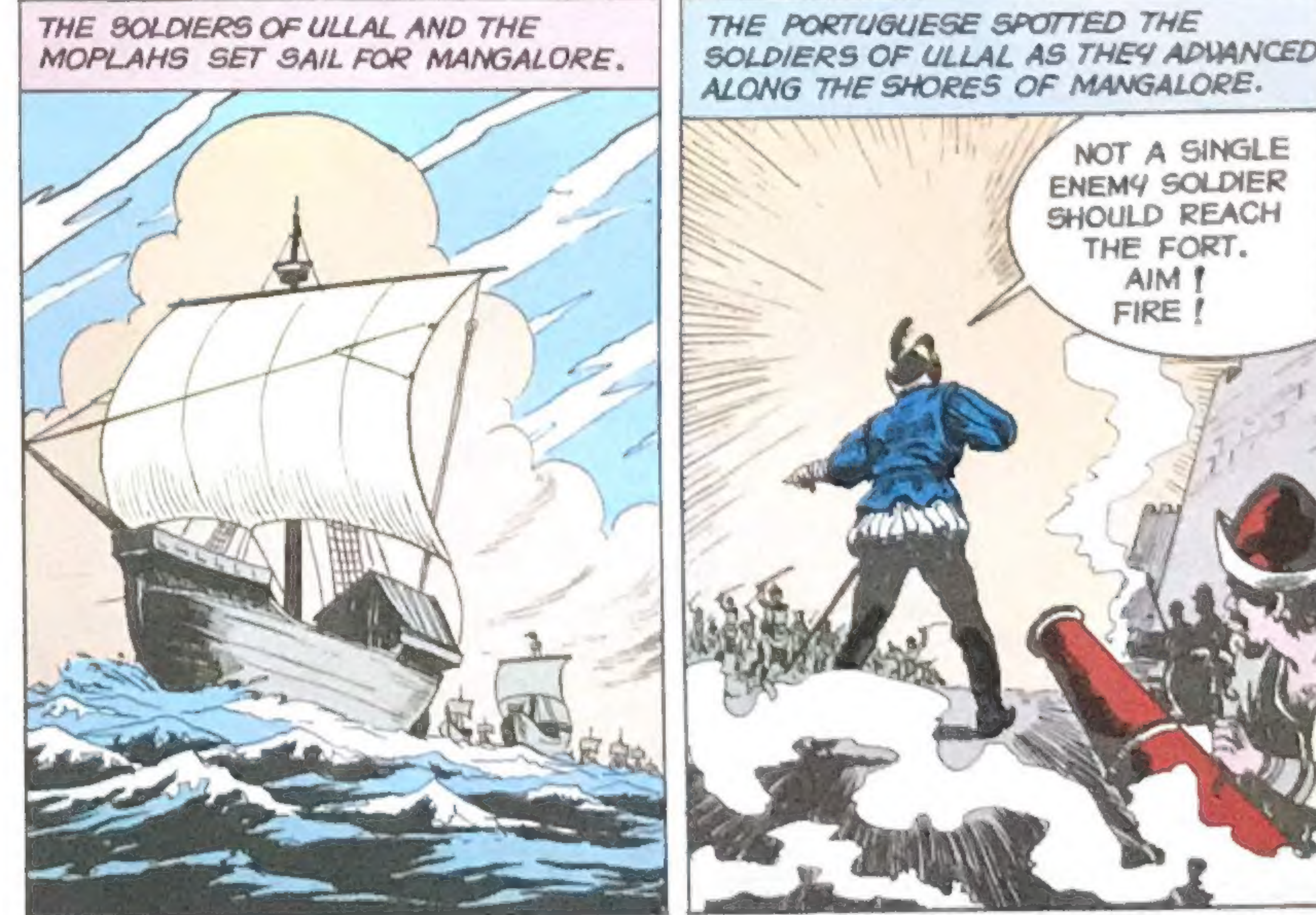
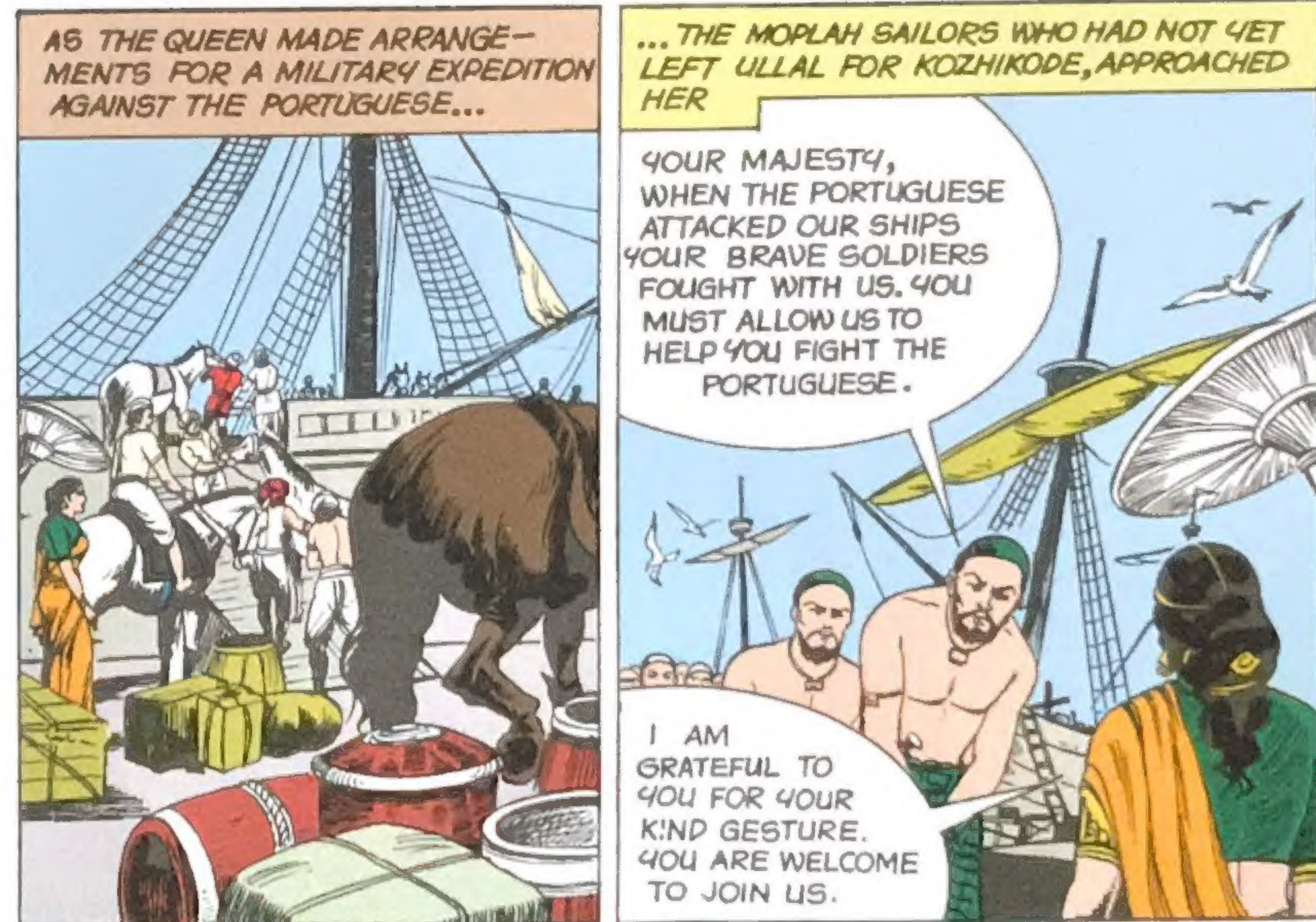
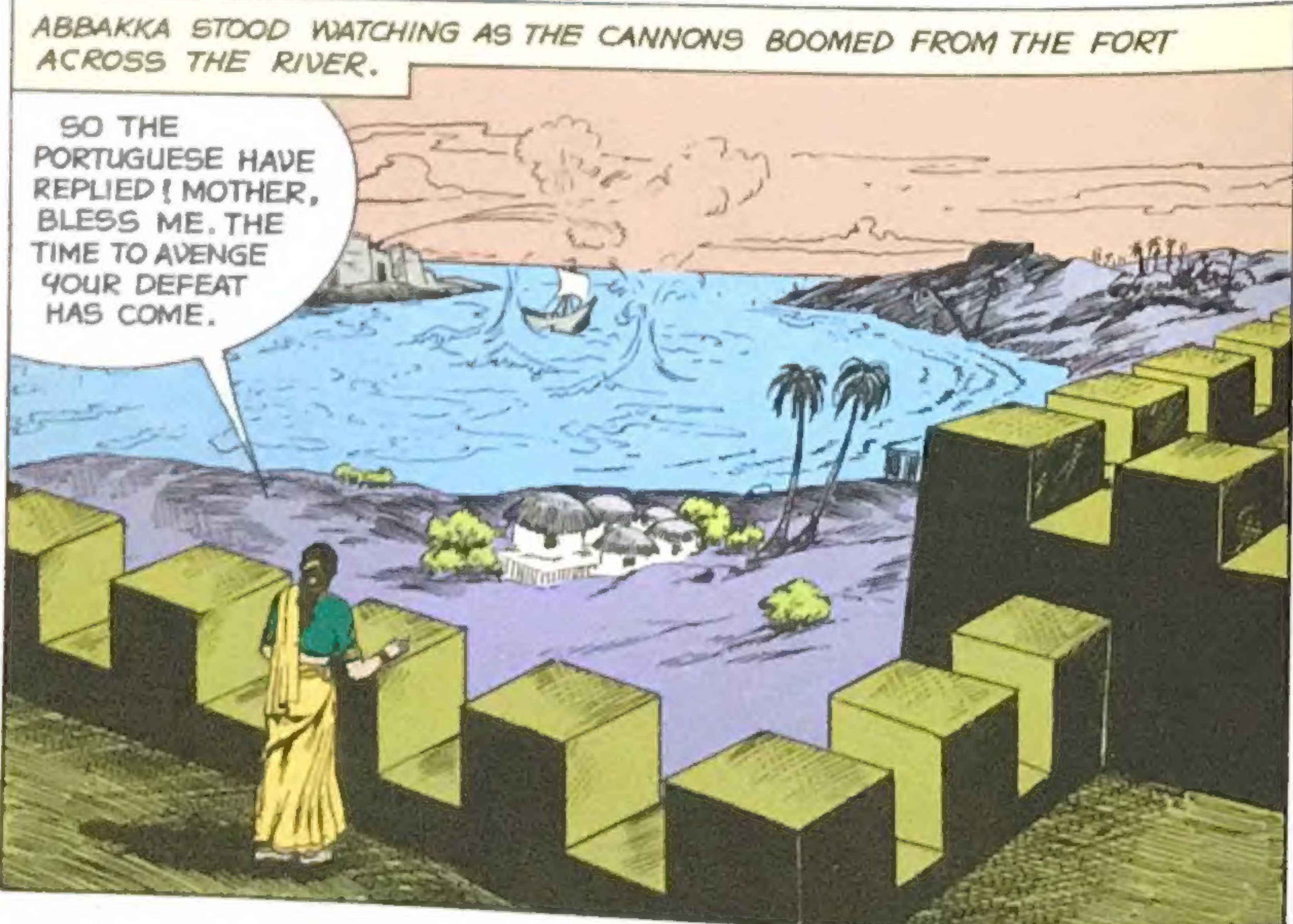
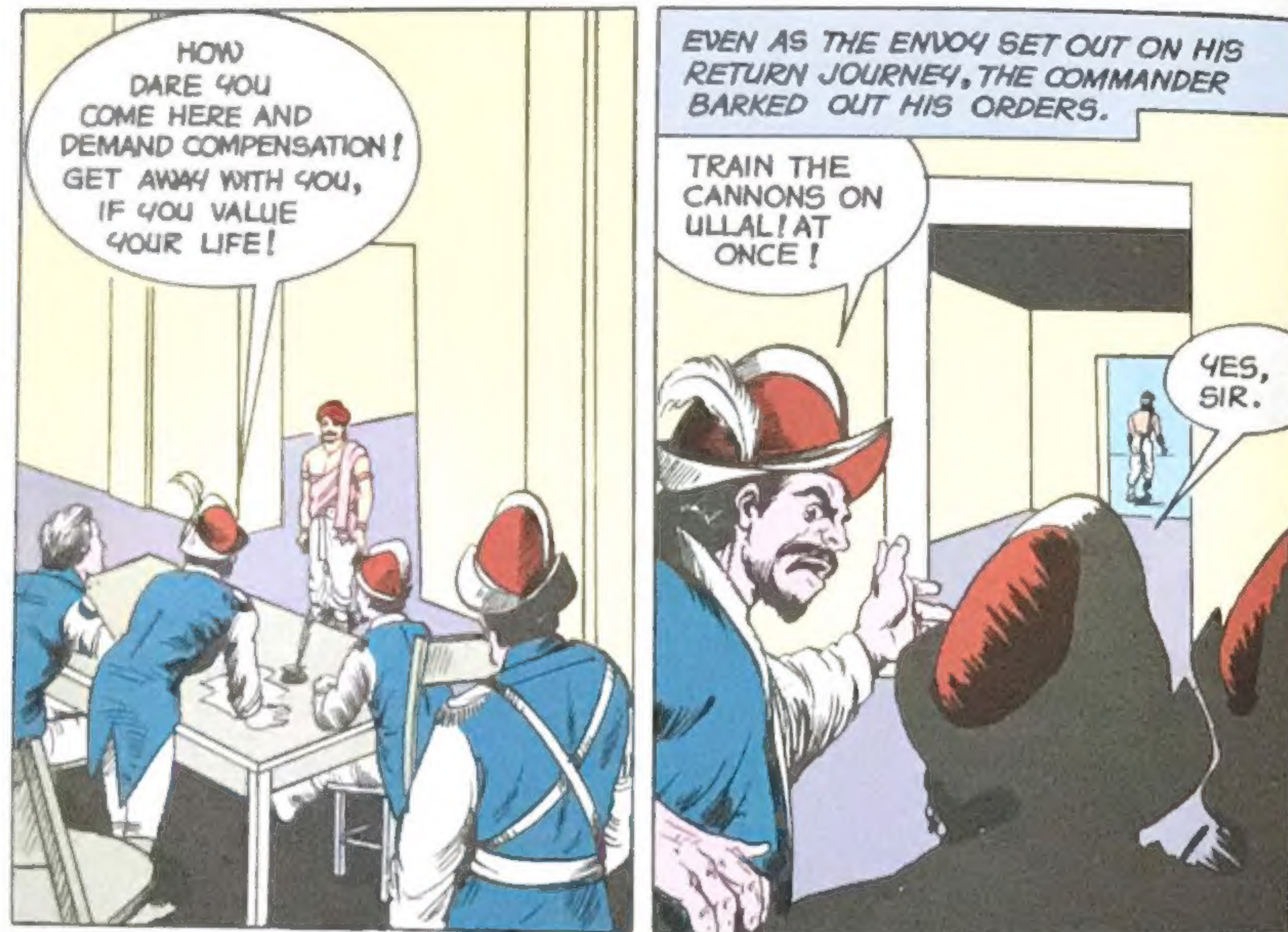
HE WAS LED TO RIBERO, THE PORTUGUESE COMMANDER.

OUR QUEEN VIEWS THE ATTACK MADE ON OUR SHIPS AS AN ACT OF PIRACY. SHE DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF OUR CAPTURED SHIP...



... AND ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED AT SEA.

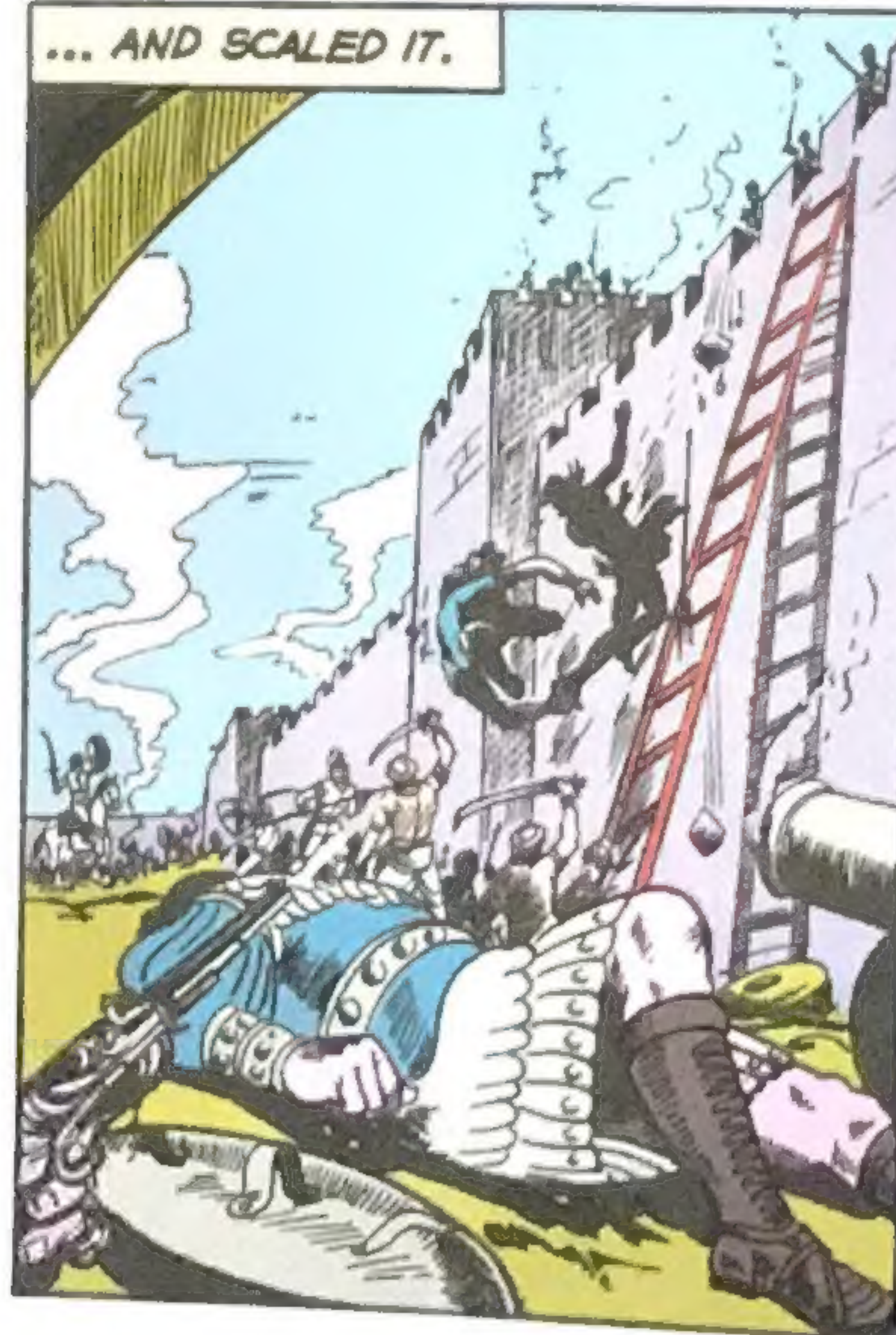




DEFYING THE INCESSANT FIRE OF THE PORTUGUESE GUNS AND CANNONS, THE FEARLESS SOLDIERS OF ULLAL RODE TOWARDS THE FORT...



... AND SCALED IT.



THE GATES OF THE FORT WERE FORCED OPEN FROM WITHIN, AND ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS STORMED IN.



AFTER A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM, THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS SURRENDERED.



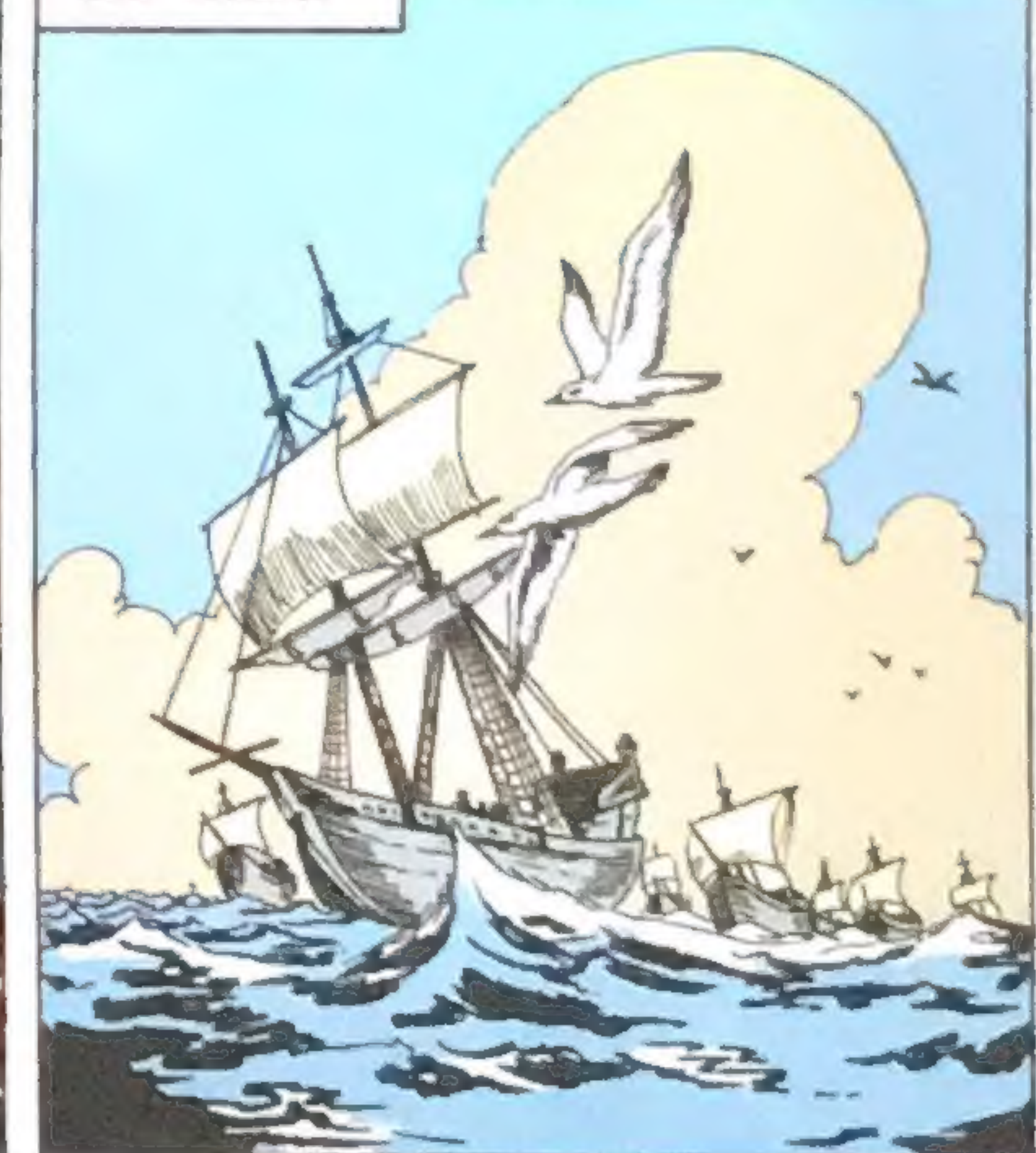
RIBERO ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE.



THE ULLAL ARMY TOOK THE GOLD STORED IN THE FORT AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED BY THE PORTUGUESE AT SEA.



ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS RETURNED TO ULLAL, CARRYING A GREAT DEAL OF BOOTY LOADED ON THE FOUR PORTUGUESE SHIPS CAPTURED BY THEM.

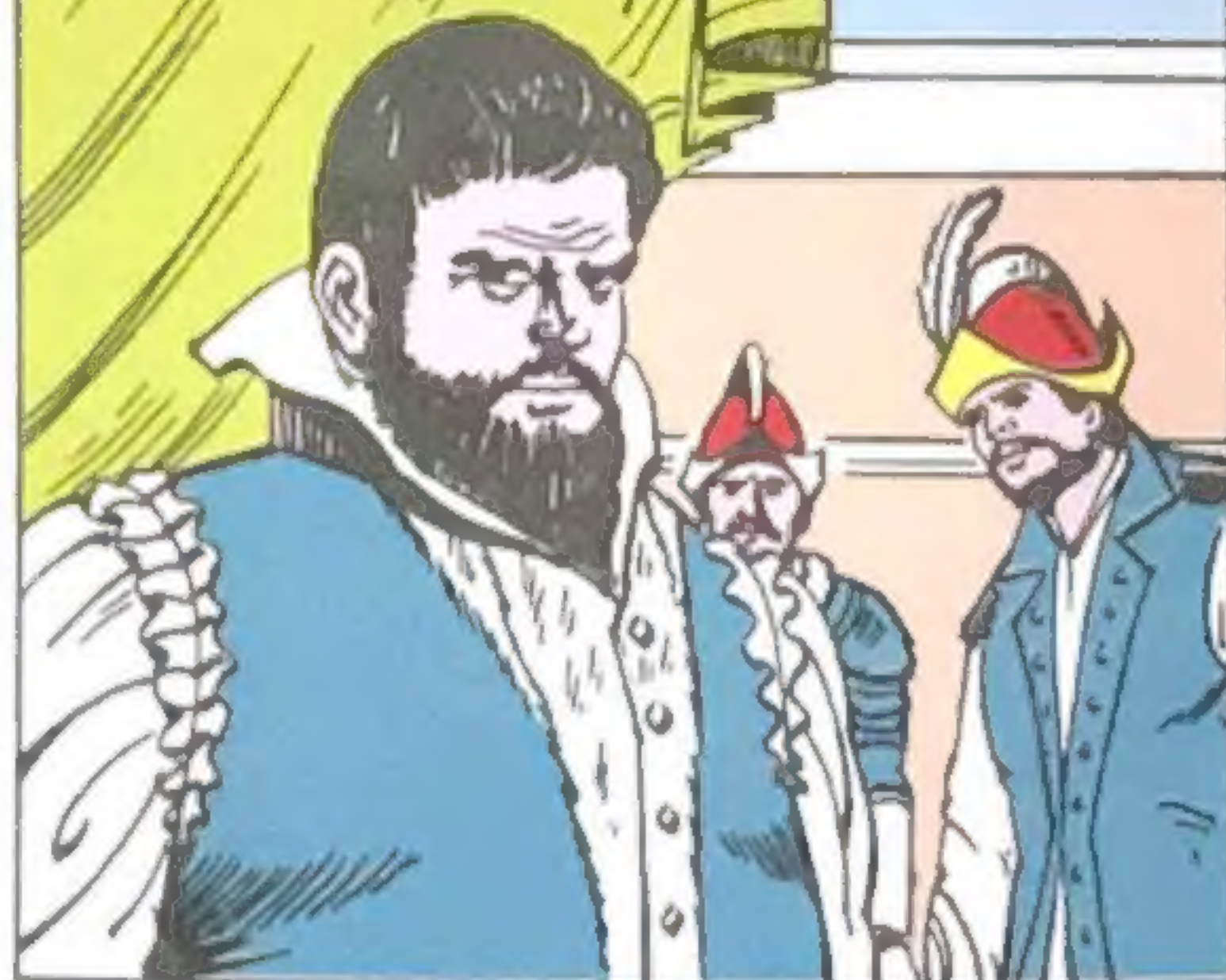


WHEN RIBERO BROUGHT THE NEWS OF THE FALL OF FORT MANGALORE, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNOR OF GOA REACTED SHARPLY.

WHAT! A MERE WOMAN DEFEATING THE MIGHTY PORTUGUESE! YOU HAVE MADE US THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE LOCAL RULERS.



ENCOURAGED BY THE SUCCESS OF ABBAKKA, THE OTHER RULERS TOO MIGHT TRY TO DEFEY US. ABBAKKA MUST BE CRUSHED.



A PORTUGUESE FORCE LED BY COUTINHO RUSHED FROM GOA TO ULLAL AND LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT.



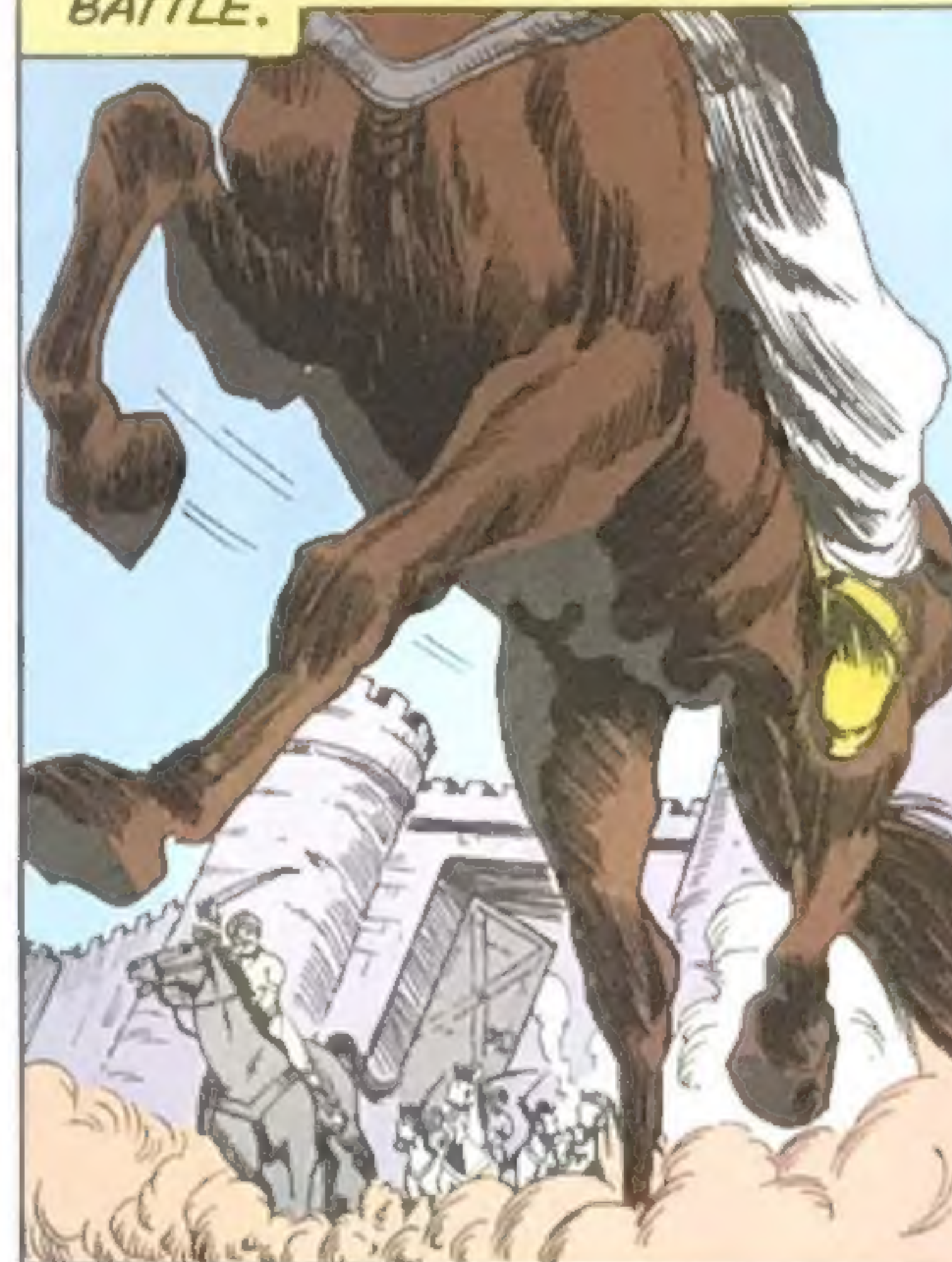
THE DAUNTLESS ABBAKKA ADDRESSED HER MEN.

MY BRAVE SOLDIERS, THIS SHALL BE THE DECISIVE WAR, LET US FIGHT WITH ALL OUR MIGHT AND DEFEAT THE PORTUGUESE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

VICTORY TO RANI ABBAKKA!



ABBAKKA THREW OPEN THE GATES OF THE FORT AND LED HER MEN TO BATTLE.



URGED ON BY THEIR QUEEN, THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL FOUGHT FIERCELY AND RELENTLESSLY.



FOUR DAYS OF SUCH FIGHTING WERE ENOUGH FOR THE PORTUGUESE. THEY BEAT A HASTY RETREAT, NEVER TO TROUBLE ULLAL AGAIN.



MOTHER, YOUR DREAM HAS COME TRUE. ULLAL IS FREE!

LATER ABBAKKA HELPED VENKATAPPA NAYAK, THE KING OF KELADI, TO TAKE THE FORT OF MANGALORE. THE PORTUGUESE WERE COMPLETELY DRIVEN OUT OF MANGALORE MUCH LATER BY SHIVAPPA NAYAK, THE GREATEST OF THE KINGS WHO RULED KELADI.